

# Championship Edition



## Election Recap

*How MBA foresaw the shocking election outcome.*

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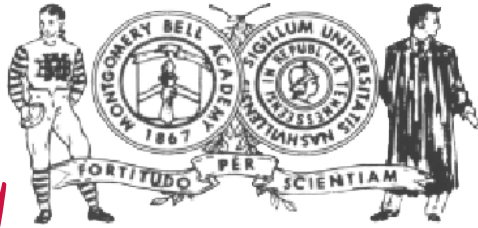
## Volpone

*Mr. Morrison's stunning production of Ben Jonson's Jacobean satire*

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# THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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## Our Sleep-Deprived Student Body

*By Joe Spear  
Assistant Features Editor*

Here on The Hill, amid the copious amount of coursework and responsibilities, sleep is often placed as a secondary priority in many students' lives. Whether a theme is due, three tests have been assigned on the same day, your favorite show enticed you the night before, or you stayed up late to brag about your lack of sleep, no one is sleeping truly as much as they should be.

*The Bell Ringer* decided to investigate this evidently rampant issue by running a survey across the school about sleep habits. The results were eye-opening.

According to the poll, 59% of students claim to sleep between 6-8 hours a night. This statistic may seem encouraging, but only the 11% who claim to get more than 8 hours each night meet the National Sleep Foundation's recommendation of 8-10 hours a night for teenagers.

Considering the responsibility we all face, such a quantity of sleep would be unrealistic at MBA.

Further alarming, the study found that up to 3% of students report getting less than 4 hours of sleep on an average night—a frightening statistic if only for the images it conjures in the minds of the other

## Redemption Run: The Final Challenge for Team 118

*By Palmer Thombs  
Assistant Sports Editor*

It's hard to believe that the 2016 high school football season is in its final days. It seems like just yesterday that fans walked out of Tommy Owen Stadium on August 19th shocked that MBA had blown a halftime lead against the Huskies of Hewitt Trussville. But the days are numbered for football across the country, and these dwindling days bring about

emotions from all parties involved: senior players, parents, fans, and coaches, among many others.

Montgomery Bell Academy's 118th football team is lucky to say that it is still competing in these dwindling days.

The month of October brought about challenges that would prepare the Big Red for the playoffs. Sitting at 6-1 coming into the month, MBA stared at a schedule that closed with three straight tough games.

First up for the Big Red, a state

championship rematch with the Brentwood Academy Eagles.

The Eagles and the Big Red battled October 7th under a beautiful autumn night on The Hill. MBA students painted in red came out in full force to support their boys, and the team did not disappoint. The defense, led by senior linebacker Logan Cashwell, and junior

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# Sizing up a Historic Election

By Andrew Kaplan  
News Editor

Everyone was wrong about the presidential election. Well, everyone except Trump’s campaign spokeswoman, Kellyanne Conway, who maintained her assertion throughout the final weeks of the campaign that Mr. Trump was going to win.

There are several clear answers as far as where to look for how the polls got it wrong, yet serious questions remain about the future of the Democratic party and the nation as a whole.

Trump’s presidency was propelled by the “silent majority.” When polls were conducted, many Americans were too intimidated by public pressure not to say that they were voting for Trump. Within the confines of the voting booth in which no one else can see one’s ballot, however, voting for Trump may have been a much simpler task.

Most polls had Clinton winning the election, but by a narrow margin within three percentage points in terms of popular vote totals. Nate Silver, leader of FiveThirtyEight, explained this three percent lead as the size of a polling error.

America was shocked on November 8th, but the data was substantially closer than everyone played it out to be. Clinton was favored in nearly every swing state she ended up losing. Her lead in each of those swing states was not substantial, yet pundits had her beating out Trump by narrow margins to the extent that Trump would only have to get a small constituency of additional voters to turn out in order to flip each of those states. Trump clearly did just that.

Who would have thought that the Montgomery Bell Academy mock election would be more indicative of the actual presidential election than Nate Silver and the rest of the polling community? MBA students overwhelmingly favored Donald Trump. Even more interestingly, Trump’s vote totals still averaged below fifty

percent. Yet Clinton did not win. The student body voted over thirty percent for either Gary Johnson or the “other” category. These voters were predominantly individuals who could not see themselves voting for Trump under any circumstances but were also turned off by Clinton based on several perceived negative factors.

October surprises may have shifted the outcome of the election from Clinton to Trump in the closing weeks of the campaign. The pundits interpreted the lude Trump tapes as the surprise that would shift the election. Nevertheless, the media and much of the American general public were able to normalize these Trump remarks, because these comments were so similar to what Trump has said about Mexicans and other minorities. Trump was able to get away with countless bigoted remarks once the media legitimized him as a candidate in the first place.

The time when Trump could most easily have been stopped was when he first announced his candidacy for president. Media outlets could have laughed off his candidacy as a joke, refused to cover his rallies, and engaged in numerous interviews. But Trump is an entertainer, and entertainers get better ratings than establishment politicians. As a result, the media acted in their own self-interest by extensively covering Trump to boost their ratings.

Media outlets such as CNN attempted to take hardline approaches to Trump and condemn his candidacy in the final month of the campaign season, but the damage had already been done. Trump had been legitimized as a candidate for president of the United States.

The MBA community serves as microcosm that, through its mock election, helps to explain Clinton’s loss in an accurate perspective. Trump won the election by an extremely narrow margin through tight victories in several swing states. Yet Clinton won the popular

vote. Most Americans who voted in the 2016 presidential election did not vote for the president-elect.

Many Americans could not vote for Trump, but many also could not bring themselves to vote for Clinton. Therefore third party candidate Gary Johnson attracted millions of votes from Americans dissatisfied with establishment politicians in the context of the existing two party system. Many voters, including MBA students who voted for Johnson, may have rationalized this third party choice with the belief that Johnson could potentially get five percent of the popular vote, securing federal funding for the Libertarian Party in the next presidential election. Johnson, however, did not reach five percent nationally, thereby failing to reach this goal.

A major debate brews over whether the Johnson votes took more from Clinton or Trump. As more data emerges about individual counties in various swing states, the data suggests that traditionally heavily Democrat leaning districts had more Johnson voters than heavily Republican leaning districts. This trend indicates that more Democrats were offput by Clinton than Republicans by Trump.

Another factor that might have swung the election was the James Comey letter about reopening the investigation into Clinton’s emails. This revelation was the true “October surprise.” Comey,



WINNING AND GRINNING: President-elect Trump basks in the glow of his ultimate celebrity.

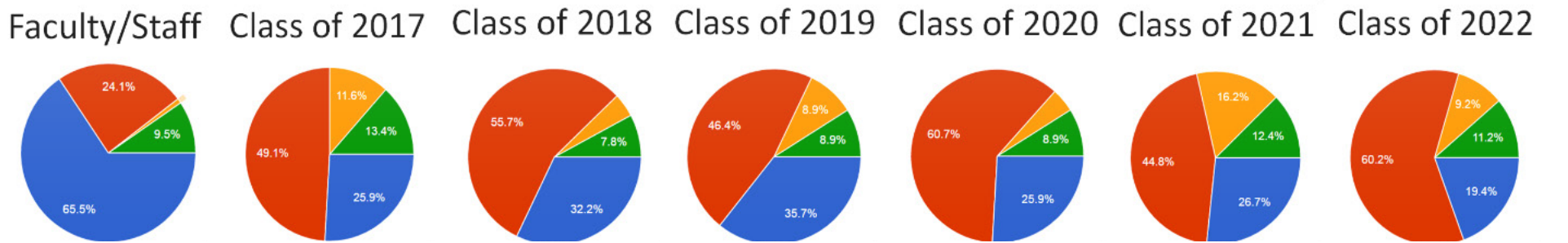
director of the FBI, reopened the email investigation based on emails found on Anthony Weiner’s account. Comey had previously stated that he did not want to have any effect on the election after he initially closed the Clinton email investigation. Regardless, he reinvigorated fears of allegations Hillary’s improprieties as legitimate. Voters who were previously able to overlook the emails may have believed that the claims had some merit following the reopening of the investigation. The investigation was later closed again, having found no wrongdoing on Clinton’s part, but the perceived wrongdoing had already done its damage.

For many, dissecting the 2016 presidential election involves accepting an uncomfortable understanding of how the American electorate failed to adequately turn out to prevent Trump from winning. The silent majority succeeded with a phenomenon similar to Brexit, in which angry voters possessed an unparalleled motivation to turn out to the voting booths.

America will now focus on handling a Trump presidency. For better or worse, he is America’s choice.

**HISTORY IN THE MAKING:** The day before this historical election, Bell Ringer News Editor Andrew Kaplan facilitated a campus-wide mock election, polling both students and faculty in order to obtain a clear picture of the campus’s political leanings. It is evident that the MBA campus skews red, with the win going to Trump.

	TOTAL VOTES	VOTE SHARE
DONALD TRUMP - REPUBLICAN	373	48.44%
HILLARY CLINTON - DEMOCRAT	258	33.51%
OTHER	79	10.26%
GARY JOHNSON - LIBERTARIAN	60	7.79%
[100% of PRECINCTS REPORTING]		



# Flashback:2000

## Election Issue

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### Just How Far Does the Media Go?

by Mr. Alan Coverstone

Our nation is obsessed with sports. We love nothing more than the game-winning hit in the bottom of the ninth, unless it is the last-second drive toward a Super Bowl championship. We appreciate strategy and momentum, and we love to live vicariously through those who are playing the games. As businesses, the nation's media outlets understand the power of sports metaphors to attract excitement and attention to the product they supply. What better way to attract attention to news during the political "season," than to offer daily updates on the "score."

The emergence of the tracking poll has given news organizations just the tool they need. Each day in the months leading up to an election, numerous outlets compile and release data that purports to show the percentages of the population that support each of the principle candidates in the campaign. The release of each day's "score" has transformed our elections from contests over clashing policy agendas into a "horse race" that the gambler in each of us loves to follow. In place of political issue discussions, we now find people across the nation arguing over who will win the race. The irony is that this vicarious daily tracking of the race has expanded at the very same time that voter turnout rates have declined. This phenomenon should not surprise us. When the Titans trail by five with a minute to go, very few of us feel like we should be on the field. We participate by sitting on the sideline and cheering harder. We make noise, but we never get into the game. Similarly, more and more Americans cheer harder for their candidate, but they no longer feel compelled to "get into the game" and vote.

The role of the media in politics is a difficult one to identify. From the 1960 presidential debate between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon to the Monica Lewinsky scandal, most of what we know about politics and politicians comes to us through the media's lens. The power to shape the news we see is an incredible power. Our constitution places strict limits on the exercise of political power by the formal structures of our government. Yet, this same constitution offers its most stringent limitation on formal power in

order to ensure that the press operates without limits.

The media's formal declaration of its status as "watchdog" of American democracy was carried in the Washington Post. The Watergate Affair ushered in a new era of distrust for the government and a corresponding era of

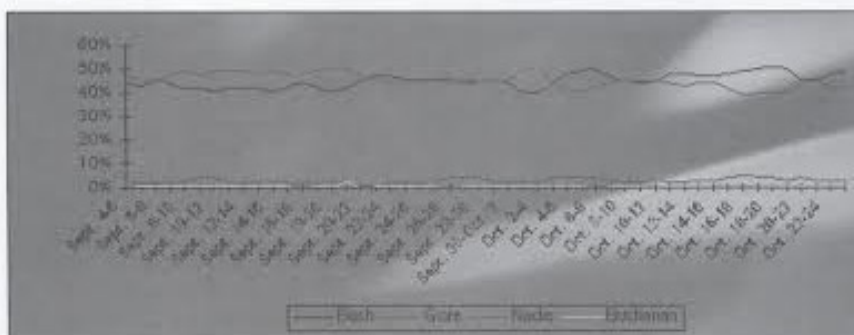
risk of suffering a "knockout."

Coverage of the "horse race" has taught the media an important lesson. No one watches a blowout. Just ask the Monday Night Football crew how much they charge for ads during the fourth quarter of a Rams-Bengals game. Similarly, the news media has a vested interest in keeping the election close. As we near the end of a campaign widely regarded as "the closest in forty years," it is fair to ask whether the

media uses its power to shape our impressions of the candidates in order to keep the "race" close. In the process, Americans tune in to the news each day so they won't seem out of it around the water cooler at work. Yet on election day, voters will stay home in droves, waiting for the final score.

Consider these facts. Going into the Democratic National Convention, Al Gore trailed George W. Bush by 11-25 points in tracking polls. A blowout was on the horizon. Yet, as Gore's nomination acceptance speech approached, the story was his desperate need for a "home run." Did he hit it? Well, it was a good speech, but it broke little new ground on the issues, and it lacked the oratorical zeal of Reagan or Clinton. Still, almost immediately, the pundits began to trumpet the success of the speech. Polls began to roll in showing that a bare majority thought the speech was "strong." Within two days, the 15 point chasm in the tracking polls had been erased. The "race" was on.

As we approached the first Presidential debate, Gore's "lead" in the polls climbed. Just a week before the debate, Gore's "lead" was eleven points. Then as the debate neared, coverage of Gore's campaign changed subtly. Several minor "gaffes" were identified and Bush's contention that Clinton was manipulating public policy to support Gore began to be covered in the news. Was this the first time the Bush camp leveled this accusation? Absolutely not. In early October, coverage of this claim began to narrow the gap



This CNN daily tracking poll shows how many times the lead has changed.

trust in the media. By the mid-1970's journalists were celebrating their pro-democracy virtues and questioning those who would counsel responsible use of their newly found power. Yet, as the number of media outlets expanded, and the number of ownership companies declined, competition began to supercede concern. Each of the major media conglomerates now competes fiercely for the advertising dollars of sponsors that pay the bills. The tracking polls are a wonderful tool for these companies to deploy in their drive to attract consumers to their news.

Not only do tracking polls offer the illusion of a "score," they allow



President Nixon was one of the first U.S. Presidents seriously hurt by the media.

commentators to identify "momentum," "fumbles," and "home runs." Citizens wait with anticipation for each day's release of tracking data. A candidate must do more than offer a solid platform, he or she must match the opposition spectacle for spectacle. A failure to respond to a large media event will result in a "slump" in the polls. A candidate with sagging numbers is said to be at

### Interest Groups?

by Trey Tally

One issue in many election years is what interest groups are most important. Are there any particular groups that are important to the election? Well, for this year, the answer is no. Though in earlier years interest groups have had some major force, such as in the 1994 congressional election when the NRA lobby was a powerful influence, this year no group has emerged. In 1994, the NRA successfully lobbied in many key



The National Rifle Association played a major role in recent elections

areas that strengthened the Republican presence in Congress. NRA lobbying efforts have been much less significant this year, however, barely affecting the campaign. The NRA is of course supporting Bush, but most of the NRA members are big fans of his anyway. It's not like the NRA vote was a toss up at any point this year.

Environmental lobbies are present and supporting Gore or Nader, but the split is mainly hurting Gore. The resulting split doesn't particularly come from an interest group as much as from the issues. Voters may be concerned about the environment, but they sure don't care who the World Wildlife Fund or Greenpeace is supporting.

Though the interest groups may play a significant part on the funding side of the campaign, their influence hasn't been to great on actual voting results. The main sticking points seem to be undecided voters in the big swing states, such as Florida and Michigan. However, the undecided are not exactly represented in an interest group. It's going to come down to the wire.

Continued on p. 5

# Faculty Responds to Election Results

By Philip Scholer  
Assistant News Editor

Given that around 53% of MBA's students supported Trump in the mock election, the studentry did not share the same feeling of hysteria with high school students across the country who walked out of school in protest of the results. Rather, MBA became a place to openly discuss ideas about the election.

Whether the election result was the one we hoped for or not, the MBA community, along with the rest of America, was shocked by the result. Because the singularity of the election has been discussed nonstop by the news, *The Bell Ringer* went out to investigate how members of the faculty responded.

Mr. Story accounts for Trump's victory by citing an electorate that wants to hear a promise of change. He notes that despite the glaring differences between Mr. Obama and Mr. Trump's campaigns, they both called for change and challenged the status quo.

Though Dr. Tarkington sympathizes with Trump's challenge to establishment, he wishes that the agent for radical change "be a man of greater intelligence, compassion, and dignity than the

president-elect." Dr. Tarkington points out the chord of this election result that struck many at MBA: how to hold on to our ideal of a gentleman when the president-elect's talk of non-consensually groping women was widely shrugged off by the electorate. Dr. Tarkington hopes that "even students who support Trump's candidacy will remember that bullying, objectifying and humiliating women, mocking the disabled, and encouraging bigotry are behaviors a gentleman should neither emulate nor tolerate, but rather actively seek to combat at every opportunity."

Mr. Norton remembers what James Carville remarked in the 1992 election: "It's the economy, stupid." Anti-establishment and pro-change sentiment reflects a more tangible facet of voting, the economy. Rural towns are depopulating, wages are not increasing, and many people living these rural towns have seen their standard of living decline.

Mrs. Williams digs past the politics and economics and looks to the future, stating, "on the stability of our process and on the checks and balances in our government, I continue to have great hope." She also adds that part of the election is about "acting with respect and decency towards

all people—including those of different handicaps and faiths and colors and ethnicities and sexual orientation and gender, among other things. It's about

recognizing the value of differences, from which each of us can learn and grow. It's about humility."

Dr. Lech similarly notes the amount of respect and decency towards people in the election cycle. "Since November 16th," Dr. Lech points out, "Latino students were reduced to tears in a Detroit middle school lunchroom when others chanted 'Build that wall!' Elsewhere, in Michigan, a high school locked arms and made 'human walls' to specifically bar Latino students from their classes and lockers. A slew of obscene phrases appeared on a restroom door at a Minneapolis high school, including 'Whites only,' 'White america [sic],' and 'Trump.' A high school student in California handed out homemade deportation letters to Hispanic students. The Ku Klux Klan announced a parade this December in North Carolina to honor Donald Trump. *The New York Post* printed 'modeling pictures' of our next First Lady so salacious and pornographic that if I were to merely send the link of this public story to my students I could be incarcerated under §39-17-100 of the Tennessee Code. Using the most recently available data, the FBI reported that hate crimes against Muslim Americans were up 67 percent compared to 2014. That was just the first week.

"Those are disturbing facts, and I resist any movement of our nation in that direction. Yet there are policy pledges of Trump's that I support. His call for congressional term limits is one. Mostly though, I hope the incoming administration's desire to 'make America great again' is sincere. If President-elect Trump vigorously applies himself over the next four years, then he may be able to return the country to the level of greatness we all enjoyed before his unconscionable, obnoxious campaign began."

In a similar light, Ms. Kilman distinguished between the personal beliefs that dominated this election and objective fact. First Ms. Kilman notes that post-truth nature of this election: objective

facts are becoming secondary to appeals to personal belief and emotion in shaping people's opinion. Ms. Kilman elaborates, "The personal helps me, us, make meaning. But the personal, and by this I mean how I feel or what I 'believe,' is not objective fact. It is not the basis for policy, be it foreign or domestic. My feelings are not evidence in a court of law, nor are they are not scientific observations that support a testable hypothesis. They are subjective and unique to me. Because of the glib nature of the Word of the Year, "post-truth," I'm worried we're going to accept post-truth as our new, collective truth. I'm afraid we're going to continue in an echo-chamber of Facebook affirmation instead of reaching across lines of difference to express empathy and work towards substantive solutions. I'm worried that we're going to give in to the click-bait of un-substantiated and inaccurate 'news' sites instead of investing in peer-reviewed, researched, and accountable journalism. I'm apprehensive that we've normalized a fluidity of truth through this election process, and truth is the foundation upon which democracy rests."

Moving past the decline in decency and respect and a rise of a post-truth world of politics and news, Dr. Boyd looks at the path forward in a divided electorate. "Such a delicate overall balance between two blocs of voters who seem increasingly separated from each other is going to make building consensus on major issues very difficult over the next few years," Boyd states. "It will require leaders in both parties and all branches of government to be willing to risk backlash from their own supporters if any significant compromises are going to be reached, and that is not typically the kind of risk politicians are willing to take."

Despite all the challenges brought up in these responses, democracy is still very much alive, because as Mr. Hamrick notes, "Democracy includes the right to make terrible choices."

**MAKE AMERICA HATE AGAIN:** Many faculty members were up in arms about the bigotrous nature of the recent election.



*Are you interested in writing?*

*Graphic design?*

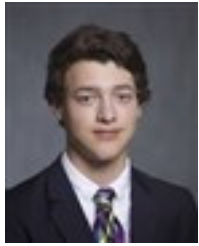
*Working on a website?*

*If so, contact Peter "Tolstoy"*

*Taylor, Andrew "Totomoi" Kaplan,  
John "Tempest" Fioravanti, or any  
member of "The Dirty Dozen," the  
editorial staff of The Bell Ringer.*



# Miccioli Weighs in on Clinton, Lauds Sanders



By Mike Miccioli  
Staff Bernie Bro

With the recent election of Donald Trump as president, Democrats have been quick to blame their loss on voter suppression, an unwarranted FBI investigation, and the electoral college system. While these issues should all be addressed, the DNC brought the most troublesome and costly problem upon themselves: their candidate.

Hillary Clinton lost the election because she was an uninspiring candidate. The Democrats have traditionally been champions of the working class; Clinton did not resonate with these people, especially white members of the working class. At a time when the party is becoming more progressive, nominating a candidate who gave speeches to Goldman Sachs behind closed doors and said she has “both a public and private a position” was reckless and unacceptable. Instead of a conservative, recycled establishment candidate, the DNC should have nominated a revolutionary figure like Bernie Sanders, capable of exciting new voters and inducing greater voter turnout. In addition to inspiring citizens who had previously not been involved with the democratic process,

Sanders was able to win unprecedented percentages of independents, as his ties with the party were loose, and he was able to fight for his grassroots supporters without feeling pressure from the Democratic establishment. Sanders has been greatly outspoken regarding topics such as counterproductive regime change, fracking, and trade deals. These attributes made Bernie Sanders an ideal candidate to defeat whomever the Republicans nominated, especially in states like Wisconsin and Michigan which he won in the primaries.

Because he has such a history of standing with the 99 percent, Sanders fared extremely well in areas with high populations of factory workers and other laborers. If the DNC could not insure Clinton winning the primary nomination without them leaking debate questions, conspiring against Sanders with anti-semitic rhetoric, and disenfranchising

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**Hillary Clinton  
lost the election  
because she was  
an uninspiring  
candidate.**

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likely Sanders voters, why should they have thought she could win an election



**VERMONT'S FINEST:** Sanders was able to win an unprecedented percentage of independents.

run by an unbiased commission in November?

If the Democrats have any sense left, they will adopt Bernie's vision for the future and replace the DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz with a real progressive and elect more senators and representatives capable of being leaders for all people at all times, not just when convenient. Trump's victory demonstrated that voters were so desperate for a radical change in leadership that they were willing to elect

a fascist since the Democrats were only able to offer the status quo. Hopefully this disastrous election and four years of a Trump presidency will be enough of a wake-up call to the party for them to learn their lesson and get in touch with the common voter. Unfortunately, by that time, catastrophic changes could have already been made, including reversing progress on climate change, loss of human rights, and the start of another recession.

## Capizzi Defends a Conservative Angle



By Jack Capizzi  
Entertainment Editor

Throughout the 2016 campaign, numerous new stories surrounding Hillary Clinton and President Elect Donald Trump arose containing key information that influenced the opinions of millions of Americans. One storyline remained steadfast in the buildup to the election was about the commentary on Trump supporters.

“You can put half of Trump supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables.” These words stated by Hillary Clinton in early September display that she, along with numerous Americans, was confused about who actually supported Donald Trump. Clinton and many others had their opinions on Trump Supporter's fueled by media description of these people as backcountry, uneducated, white males, a description, which fails to address the millions of American's who made up what has been titled the “Silent Majority”. This “Majority” gave Trump the support he needed to win the election. After looking at the results of the election it becomes obvious that Trump's support base came from a wide range of people spanning across education levels, income levels, race, and especially gender. Addressing the issue of gender, much has come out after the election stating that the men of

this country voted against Hillary Clinton as they could not stand to see a woman elected president. However, according to the 538 post-election polling results, Trump won 53% of the votes from white women, a group of supporters who have been associated with an almost total support of Hillary since she first ran in 2008. Not only does this particular statistic show how vast Trump's support was, but it also reflects how poorly Clinton was

able to support her validity as a candidate for change. Painted as a strong trailblazer for women in this country by much of the media, this image ended up not being strong enough to win over half of the group she was projected as being a direct advocate for. Also, the exit polls showed an even split along income lines. At the lowest income level recorded, under \$30,000, Clinton won the majority with 53%. In the highest income level recorded, \$250,000, Trump narrowly

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**Americans must respect  
that Trump was elected  
President by the people  
and that he has a chance at  
changing the country for  
the better.**

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edged her out with 48% of these voters to her 46%. These statistics address the falsely projected fact that Trump's support

was solely coming from poor whites and instead reveals the income level of various voters not being a deciding factor in the results of the election. Again, along education lines, the even split of support was maintained along almost all education levels. For citizens who had some level of associate or college degree, Trump won 52% while Clinton won only 43%. This statistic proves the common belief that Trump's supporters were all uneducated members of our society. These statistics help to prove that Trump's support, while it does contain some radical members, was mostly made up of American's who voted for him out of frustration with the system. They are not a “basket of deplorables” but rather an accurate representation of how a large portion of America feels. Whether these supporters came on the side of Trump or on the side of Bernie Sanders, each side wanted a distinct change in the leadership of the government. Change is what America got.

In the wake of the election, violence and protest have swept the nation. Cries of “Love Trumps Hate” have turned into chants of “not our president.” In almost every major city in the United States protests and riots have broken out, filling the streets with people calling for the removal of Trump from office. These protests have seen dozens of protestors arrested, millions of dollars in damage committed, and multiple acts of violence

committed against supporters of Trump and other innocent bystanders. Some Trump supporters have also been cited in many incidences where racial attacks, verbal and physical, have transpired. Both groups of supporters must look to what the leaders of our country have instructed the people to do in the weeks following the election. Clinton, in her concession speech, urged for a “peaceful transition of power,” Obama directed the people to embrace a “sense of unity; a sense of inclusion; a respect for our institutions,” and Trump, in his victory speech, stated; “Now it is time to bind the wounds of division.”

Regardless of opinion, it is necessary that all Americans respect that Donald Trump will be the next President of the United States and that he has the capability of changing the country for the better. Only a week after he had been elected President Syrian President Assad called for cooperation with the United States, Vladimir Putin proclaimed that Russia is prepared to finally restore positive relations with the United States, and the Dow Jones Stock Index has reached an all time high. These are beneficial occurrences, which are signs that, hopefully, Trump will be able to enact the change he proclaimed to his own supporters and prove his critics wrong by making a change for the better in America. Now it is down to Donald Trump to “Make America Great Again.”

# On Racial Stereotyping in Sports



By Ben Coulthard  
Sports Editor

It wasn't until the last few years when the Washington Redskins made the NFL playoffs in 2015 and the Cleveland

Indians made the World Series this past year that their nicknames became controversial in the eyes of many. For years, Native American groups and others have petitioned Redskins owner Dan Snyder and members of the Indians' front office, calling for them to change the derogatory and particularly racist nicknames and logos of these

**At this moment in the United States, it is imperative that the nation sees change in the nicknames of pro sports teams.**

organizations.

The origin of the terms "redskin" and "Indian" date back to the early 1800s and were seen in novels. These terms are now considered timeworn, racially charged stereotypes that need not be seen in today's culture. Civil rights groups and human rights activists have fought alongside Native Americans in a concerted effort to incite change from executives with power to bring change.

Dan Snyder and other directors from the Redskins have openly opposed changing their team's nickname, citing

tradition as a primary reason why the team's nickname won't change. Snyder responded, "We'll never change the name. It's that simple. NEVER. You can use caps." He added, "Obviously, you have not read some of the history of the Redskins and the name of the team and what it means...The terminology of the Redskins is not meant to be offensive."

Unfortunately, I have read some of the history about the Native Americans whom Mr. Snyder prefers to refer to as "Redskins," and the history is not pretty. The history of Native Americans includes their being forcibly removed by immigrants from the land they settled, mercilessly slaughtered by these immigrants, and once again being brutally forced to leave the territory they had been excommunicated to by U.S. soldiers. Week in and week out, Native Americans across the United States turn on their televisions only to see the Redskins' nickname and be reminded of the brutal history the ancestors of their ethnicity faced.

Yet the Redskins aren't the only major sports team that face the same ethical conflict of a racist nickname. The other major team in question, the Cleveland Indians, faces backlash not so much for their nickname, rather it is their logo that has summoned controversy. Yes, the nickname is a problem, but a problem also arises when the mascot's nickname is "Chief Wahoo" and the logo depicting the mascot is part of an exhibit at Ferris State University in the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia. The main problem with the logo is the fact that its features are quite exaggerated (having a feather behind its head, wide teeth, and red color) and resemble how Native Americans were racially stereotyped in previous periods in America.

The difference between what the Indians have done in efforts to change views is that their front office and organization is working with the MLB to try and make the image of Chief Wahoo an idea of the past. In 2013, the Indians changed their primary cap logo to a red block "C" in efforts to begin a new era of Indians baseball. There have also been efforts to remove the image of Chief Wahoo nationwide, as seen this past year when most of the Indians merchandise sold at the MLB All-Star Game featured only the block "C" and no Chief Wahoo. Efforts are being made on the Indians' part to try and eliminate the image of the stereotype.

Outside of pro sports, it is commonplace to see college and high schools nicknamed with monikers like Seminoles, Braves, Chiefs, and more similar to the nicknames in question. At Florida State, they have someone dress up in full Indian headdress, fully donned with war paint, who rides

in on a horse and drops a spear in the middle of the field before games to try and encourage fan support. While Florida State says they have an agreement with the Seminole Nation, the Seminole

Nation of Oklahoma (where a majority of the tribe lives after being forced out of states in the Eastern U.S during the Trail of Tears) and its governing body passed a resolution that read in part, "The Seminole Nation condemns the use of all American Indian sports team mascots in the public school system, by college and university level and by professional teams."

At this moment in the United States, it is imperative that the nation sees change in the nicknames of pro sports teams. Rather than feign ignorance and claim history is the reason that a racist nickname won't change, it's refreshing to see groups like the Cleveland Indians recognize there is a true problem and want to bring about change. Yes, history is important to the progress of the United States, but it's time to make nicknames and logos that bring back memories of racism and hatred just that: history.

**INDIAN STEREOTYPE:** The logo of the Cleveland Indians is one that many see as racist and derogatory.



**GLUCK**  
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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the *Bell Ringer* office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to [bellringer@montgomerybell.edu](mailto:bellringer@montgomerybell.edu) (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy at Montgomery Bell Academy. Tennessean/Gannett in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

## A Note from The Editors



*A day may come when the courage of men  
fails, when we forsake our friends  
and break all bonds of fellowship  
but it is not this day.*

*An hour of wolves and shattered shields,  
when the age of men comes crashing down,  
but it is not this day!*

*This day we fight!!*

*By all that you hold dear on this good Earth,  
I bid you stand*

*Men of **THE HILL!***

*The Bell Ringer would like to wish the Football  
Team good luck this evening during the State  
Championship game against B.A.*



# Hope and Disillusionment in Trump's America



By John Glover  
Opinions Editor

On October 26, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly got into

an argument on-air. Speaking of Kelly's continuing coverage of the fallout from Donald Trump's now infamous Access Hollywood remarks, Mr. Gingrich said, "You are fascinated with sex and you don't care about public policy." Ms. Kelly visibly tensed, her usual bemused, playful manner bottled up, she betrayed no emotion, saying, "You know what Mr. Speaker, I'm not fascinated by sex, but I am fascinated by the protection of women and understanding what we're getting in the Oval Office."

In the aftermath of the polarizing 2016 election, this exchange represents a microcosm of the gender wars that have divided men and women across the country. An otherwise cordial exchange between these two mostly politically like-minded people was overshadowed by gender division, misunderstanding, and a lack of sensitivity. A chance at finding common ground was lost to anger, even as more and more Americans seem to be ceding their reason to emotional responses.

How did this happen? Well, it shouldn't really be all that surprising. On top of all the "fairer" sex's unresolved grievances, the American people have elected a self-avowed sexual predator and abuser of women to the highest office in the land. From Republican attempts to defund Planned Parenthood, appalling—yet mostly unaddressed—domestic abuse and rape statistics, and gender-based income inequality, women had plenty of reasons to be angry before; Trump's meteoric rise is just the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back.

Donald Trump has called women "fat pigs, dogs, slobs and disgusting animals," bragged about sexually assaulting young, female actresses, and stated that "there has to be some form of punishment" for women who have abortions. All in all, his sexist remarks, predatory behavior, and backwards stances on women's

issues congeal into this perfectly misogynistic sort of electoral cocktail that many people are finding impossible to swallow in spite of 250 years of democratic precedent. First Lady Michelle Obama summed up the sentiment, "This is not politics as usual. This is disgraceful... And it doesn't matter what party you belong to—Democrat, Republican, independent — no woman deserves to be treated this way."

That's what makes Trump so uniquely controversial as a political figure. Here's a candidate—now president-elect, supported by millions of Americans—whose opinions and actions are so outrageous that they have been condemned by pundits and politicians alike on both sides of the aisle. Case in point, conservative radio host and infamous alt-right conspiracy theorist Glenn Beck called the first lady's comments "the most effective political speech I have heard since Ronald Reagan." He said, "If you're a decent human being, those words were dead on."

Mr. Beck's unprecedented about-face is emblematic of the new, post-Trump America—the amorphous, ambiguously-defined coalitions that have risen from the ashes of his systematic dismantling of the old political establishment. Essentially, all the hullabaloo surrounding Trump's general disgustingness as a human being has overshadowed the many reasons that have made his particular brand of demagoguery so effective in spite—and not because of—his misogyny or even his bigotry. Trump won by galvanizing millions of working-class, albeit predominantly white, voters into a winning coalition.

According to the graph below, while nonwhites voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Clinton regardless of gender or education level, whites voted majority



**HYSTERIA:** Hillary Clinton supporters react to Donald Trump's surprise victory (Photo: Reuters/Lucy Nicholson).

Trump but were divided from within along intersectional lines. Compared to 2012, the gender gap in favor of the Democrats is larger now than it was then. At the same time the education gap massively favored Trump with both men and women.

With as much as 70% of today's working class being without a Bachelor's Degree or higher, it's apparent that the white voting bloc is divided largely by gender and even more so by class. In 2016, millions of working-class whites—many from crucial Rust Belt swing states like Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan—who either supported Obama in 2012 or didn't vote at all delivered Trump the election. Donald Trump, who's a patrician in every sense of the word, has become a champion of the common people.

The irony of all that aside, Trump has managed to capitalize on an economic discontent that's sweeping across this nation's heartland, as income inequality increases and the middle class continues to fade away. In response to this, Trump, unlike his opponent, offered a largely incoherent but nonetheless persuasive vision for America. Just as millions were starting to feel victimized, Trump stood up to point his tiny finger. He would go to war against upstart minorities and immigrants, conniving foreign governments, and America's own corrupt, inept ruling class elite, who left everyone else behind, and in doing so, he would give the white working class their dignity back.

Voters said they were angry, and then they elected Donald Trump because he agreed with them the loudest. Now, the country is more divided than ever. Protesters burn effigies in the streets, and they post angry messages on social media. No one doubts anymore that there are two Americas, and they're separated by color. One red, the other blue. Those colors are further subdivided by skin colors (white and brown and black) and collar color (whites and blues and reds) and even gender colors (pinks and blues and

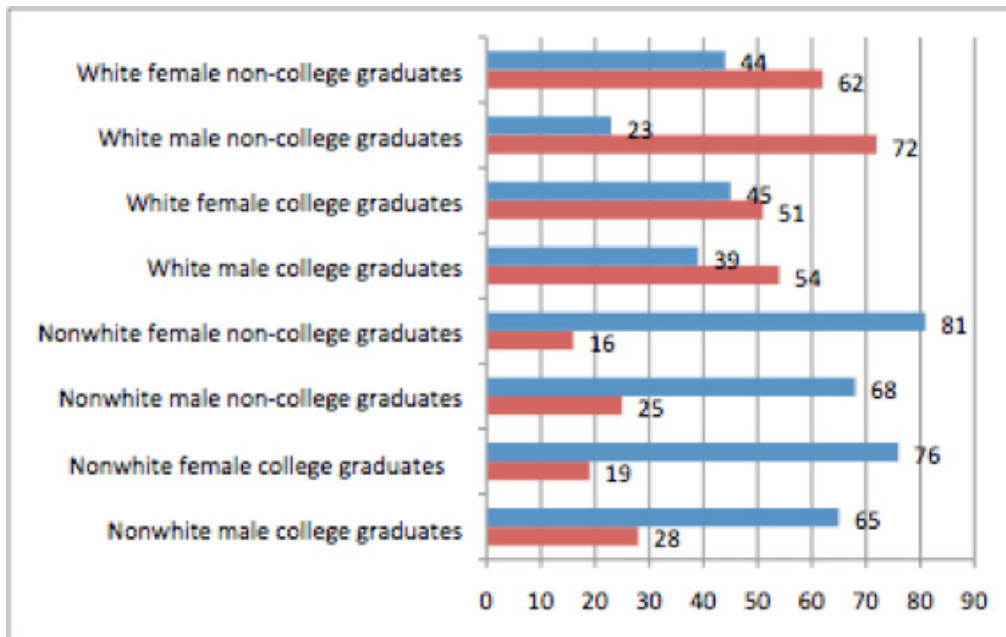
inbetweens).

For the many people indulging in incredulity and cynicism, it's important to remember that this election didn't happen in a vacuum. The rise of Trump is the unintended consequence of a peculiarly right wing brand of populism that's been around for six years: the Tea Party. Since its inception, the G.O.P has gradually drifted farther and farther away from its Reaganite roots. Eight years ago, the Republicans advocated for small government, free trade, and a hawkish foreign policy; now, they've abandoned free trade in favor of protectionism, promised to renege on the U.S. military's international commitments, and flirted with white nationalist immigration policy. The new right wants to crank up the drawbridge and drain the swamp, and apparently they aren't the only ones.

Trump's victory is the latest development in a worldwide right wing resurgence. Last summer, Britain opted to exit the European Union in favor of a Britain-first, protectionist alternative of isolationism. Meanwhile in the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, an inexperienced strongman who swears, advocates the death penalty for drug dealers, and tells rape jokes in public, was recently elected president. In Germany, the AFD, a populist anti-immigrant party, has made significant gains against Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU, which is centre-right.

As clichéd as historical allusions to the 1930s have become, in this case, the analogy holds water. The reactionary, fear-mongering brand of politics advocated for not only by Donald Trump but also Bernie Sanders, taken in conjunction with its parallels in Europe and across the world, could very well represent the single most pervasive threat to the postwar liberal order since before the collapse of the Soviet Union. For better or worse, the forces of globalization that have so pervasively shaped today's economy might very well be undone.

**DATA:** The Bell Ringer graphs the 2016 Presidential Election Results by Demographics (data from the National Election Pool).



# Scholar Responds to Roberts on AP Text Bias



By Philip Scholer  
Assistant News  
Editor

Dr. Eric Foner, author of the AP American History textbook, *Give Me Liberty*, is a

historian who leans left politically and independently publishes these beliefs online. Do these beliefs and his political orientation preclude Foner from writing an effective American history textbook?

Like many historians of our era, Foner focuses on the social aspects of American History and the radical movements that challenged pre-existing paradigms. Despite a larger focus in some areas than in others, Foner never veers from the truth. *Give Me Liberty*, examining freedom movements in America from a strong focus on the radical ideas of colonial independence to the civil rights movement, is a direct antithesis to claims that Foner's left leaning and so-called "Marxist" ideologies affect his writing in the textbook.

Foner writes the textbook with a distinct style. He provides a clear, widely accepted point that is followed by an evidence-based counterpoint. Thus Foner forms a clear American history based on evidence and perspectives of freedom. For example, Foner praises Patrick Henry, often held up as the right-wing's champion of liberty, while he explains that Patrick Henry also challenged the legality of writing of the Constitution. This counterpoint on the Constitution embodies the goal of Foner's perspectives to American history. Shedding light on those who

questioned the Constitution, the lynchpin of American Democracy, allows Foner to be criticized as a leftist who does not believe in American government. Instead, Foner is highlighting the social lynchpin in American society: the right to dissent and question an idea or a greater power.

Questioning the pre-existing paradigm is a cornerstone of American liberty. Foner focuses on events like the trial of John Peter Zenger, a writer prosecuted for publishing his political ideas criticizing the royal governor of New York at the time. Many great Americans—from Thomas Jefferson, who challenged inequalities that existed under British rule, to Abby Kelley, a prominent abolitionist who challenged the centuries old slave culture in the South, and Martin Luther King Jr., who sought equality for African-Americans in the 20th century—exercised the essential democratic right to express dissent against the established authority or dominant school of thought. Foner's writing stresses this dissent in American history, and the imperfections that were challenged.

The flaw in challenging Foner lies not in the challenging itself. Foner would support a challenged to an established way of thought. The flaw lies in portraying Foner as a Marxist due to his highlighting of the dissent. History is not a perfect science, it's an art. Historians study politics, so naturally Foner voices his political opinion about the freedom to dissent.

Foner presents perspectives that offer a twist to events that are often perceived as wholly good. For example, Foner recounts that the men who wrote the Constitution were not elected representatives whom the people asked to

write it; rather, most were wealthy white men who did not support liberty for every American

Despite the great democracy that lies in this performative text, Foner gives a perspective that the events, for which we may have preconceived notions of goodness, possess some flaw or discontinuity. Foner's approach, giving perspectives that do not solely praise the actions of the government or group that is regarded to be in the right, directly contradicts the claim that his approach is socialist or left-leaning.

Finally, I will address the veracity of the claim that Foner is a Marxist whom the college board chose to write the AP textbook. Foner taught American History in Russia in 1990, one year after the Berlin wall fell. Foner commented on his experience in Moscow, stating that the interest students in Russia had in American history during such a dire time in their country created "the exchange of knowledge and information

now possible." In terms of the college board, no one is pulling strings to force high school students to read Foner. The college board does not even mandate that students read a certain textbook. There is a free market for textbooks.

We have reached an era of post-truth politics where emotional sentiment is becoming more powerful than objective fact. The article that claimed Foner to be Marxist lacked objective fact, relying on emotionally-targeted statements against communism and corruption (common enemies), claiming "Who is pulling strings on the national AP text selection committee?... Call me old-fashioned, but studying a history text written by a Marxist does not bode well with me." The facts prove Foner celebrates liberty and has never stated anything in support of communism. Further, the College Board website does not sponsor Foner's textbook. The notion that the textbook is the product of a vast conspiracy is unfounded.

**ROLL RED?:** The Bell Ringer encourages the students of MBA to think critically and open-mindedly about all of the material studied in their classes, no matter how inaccurate it may seem.



Cumberland  
Transit

ADVENTURE AWAITS



The Bell Ringer would like to wish the students, faculty, and staff of Montgomery Bell Academy a Happy Holidays. Here is a picture of Mr. Davidson for your amusement.





# THINK BIG

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**SCOTT PORTIS, CLASS OF '84**  
**MCCLAIN PORTIS, CLASS OF '18**

**Cont. from Front Page**

97% who couldn't imagine being fully functional on such little energy.

Sleep patterns can often be determined just as much by the reported shut-eye time as the number of hours. The responses showed that 29% of the school typically goes to bed at 10:30 pm or sooner, 28% goes to bed at around 11:00 pm, and 43% of the school goes to bed after 11:30 pm. 75% of the school prefers to stay up late to finish homework rather than waking up for an early morning grind session. The other 25% makes up a smaller yet devoted camp of students who choose to wake up early to finish work.

## 76% of MBA students believe that they do not receive an adequate amount of sleep each night.

"If you're going to wake up early to finish work, you need to go to bed with the mindset that you're going to wake up and immediately open a book," said Jack Capizzi '18.

A student's early morning hours similarly affect how tired they are. Some students prefer to go to bed early and wake up early, stay up late and wake up late, or go to bed late and wake up early. 33% of the school is up and at 'em at 6:00 or earlier, 49% is up between 6:00 and 6:30, and 18% are up at 6:45 or after.

"You feel a lot more tired if you stay up late and wake up late than if you go to bed early and wake up early," said one student about his sleep habits during sophomore year.

70% of the school reports to have between 2 to 4 or more hours of homework every night, with 67% of students attributing this lack of sleep and subsequent fatigue to their coursework rather than personal choice.

It would be easy to brush off these statistics and say that students do not

get enough sleep because we are watching TV or procrastinating with other techniques, but 86% of takers of the anonymous survey claim not to stay up late regularly to watch Netflix.

76% of students believe that they do not receive an adequate amount of sleep each night. An alarming statistic, no doubt, but what can a student actually do to combat this omnipresent problem? The coursework is never going to get easier. Themes will never be abolished, pop quizzes will always be there to surprise you, and test days will never change. Instead, students must work within the pre-existing system.

Are you truly utilizing every minute of your study hall to get work done? If you really compartmentalize your work and divide out time slots to complete each assignment, your schedule will suddenly become much easier, as you are not trying to finish all assignments in one large blob. Prioritize, utilize,



**SOME SHUT-EYE:** A junior, wiped out during a hectic day on *The Hill*.

and focus, focus, focus, and your brain and life will thank you as you head into this exam season.

# More than Latin: Dual Language Study at MBA

By Isaac Wills  
Staff Linguist

Language study is a core component of the MBA education. Each and every student is required to take two years of Latin, but upon fulfilling this prerequisite, he is faced with a choice: continue Latin, or pursue a modern language?

Each MBA student first decides between Latin, Spanish, French, German, or Chinese, and evaluates his own interest in the language. Whether he simply fulfills the minimum requirement or follows through to the AP level, the process remains straightforward.

Nevertheless, a small group of individuals at MBA have elected to take another path: the study of two modern languages. Perhaps daunting to some, the simultaneous study of two languages is not as alien to MBA as one might initially suspect. Dozens of students annually complete their final year of Latin while beginning their modern language. The study of two modern languages is a different beast altogether.

Colin Snell, a Chinese and German student, emphasized the differences between his Latin-modern language and dual modern language studies. "I find that dual-language study is a much more difficult task than Latin-modern language study," said Snell. "While Latin is a difficult language to learn, you never have to speak or converse with it. Conversely, in a dual modern language study, the student has to be ready to engage in conversations in the language as well as complete writing tests."

Students who take two modern languages are forced to expand their brains in new ways. A 2007 study conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts looked into the effects that a dual modern language study had on a student, and their conclusions were overwhelmingly positive, stating, "[Dual

language study] benefits academic progress in other subjects, . . .enriches and enhances cognitive development, . . .promotes cultural awareness and competency, . . .and improves chances of college acceptance and achievement." The NEA's report unravels how students who found success with a dual-language study were better prepared for their future careers, which begs us to ask, if this dual language study yields such great results, why aren't more students hopping aboard this language train?

It is all about the fit. Señor Paolicchi, head of the language department at MBA, emphasized in an interview that interests should dictate what students pursue. He stated, "Those who have decided to take two modern languages in the past chose to do so for the right reasons." He noted further that like a sport language takes practice. If the student puts in the work, he will reap the benefits.

In accordance to the NEA study, Señor Paolicchi believed that dual modern language students can use language to grow and to expand their own curiosity and creativity. He agreed that those who pursue this type of study will have unique doors opened to them down the road.

So how does one go about deciding what two languages to study? Chinese and German scholars Colin Snell and John Curry offered similar insights. "Chinese appealed to me because of its complication, mystery, and sheer number of speakers worldwide," said Snell "[On the other hand], I was drawn to German

because I am interested in the German culture." Curry concurred. "Both China and Germany are two global superpowers, and I think it would be better to learn both their language and culture to be better equipped [as a global citizen]." Both agreed that they did not mind the added challenge.

Apart from personal assessment, there is a science behind how a student ought to choose his or her target languages. Research indicates that students who take two modern languages find the most success when the languages are distinct from one another. For example, a student who takes French and Arabic over a one year period would most likely score higher on a proficiency test than a French and Spanish counterpart.

One area where the ideal situation for a dual language learner and the reality at MBA differ lies in the course structure itself. Ideally, a dual modern language student should designate a "priority" and a "secondary" language. The "priority" language, preferably the harder of the two, would take around 70% of the student's study time whereas the other

language would take approximately 30%.

At MBA, language classes roughly take up an equal amount of time in a student's workload. It can be difficult for students to prioritize one language over the other. Señor Paolicchi touched on this topic, arguing that students who are considering taking two modern languages are provided with a conducive learning environment. He believes that the "immersion" approach to MBA language programs effectively expedites the learning process.

On the topic of challenge, Snell said, "The hardest part about juggling a dual-language study is actively being aware of which language you are trying to speak and to understand during class. . . Taking time to become completely involved in the language is probably the hardest part." Curry added, jokingly, "Losing a study hall isn't great either." Dual language study may not be for everyone. However, for some, it is a remarkable challenge worth partaking in.



*John Fioravanti*  
*Features Editor*

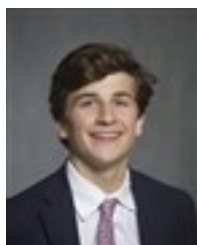
There is an overwhelming feeling of disgust between parties these days. This only strengthens division, because the feeling of disgust serves to break down the communication that is necessary for the unity and progress of our nation. With this in mind, I hope we can remember that the people who don't agree with us are just as human as we are.



*Joe Spear*

*Assistant Features Editor*

Although it didn't go the way I wished, it's only fair to give Trump a chance to do a great job and be successful in Washington. We all need to stick together and give him a chance. With that being said, I am really hoping that he doesn't trash the environment. Only time will tell.



*Jack Capizzi*

*Entertainment Editor*

The election of Donald Trump was a standing up of many Americans who have felt neglected and condescended to for many years. While some of his supporters were extreme, the majority, spanning class, gender, and income, came from those simply frustrated with a stagnant government.



*Thomas Daniels*

*Assistant Entertainment Editor*

The Cubs won the World Series for the first time in 108 years. Cleveland brought home a sports championship. David Bowie, Frank Ocean, and A Tribe Called Quest released phenomenal albums this year. I'm going to college. Why should I fret over politics again?



*Palmer Thombs*

*Assistant Sports Editor*

Americans need to do as the name of our country states, unite. No matter who is sitting behind the desk in the Oval Office, there will always be differences among the people of our country.

As citizens of this great country, using our differences to spark ideas to make the country a better place for all people is the single most important thing during these next four years.



# What does *The Bell Ring* Presidential

*Peter T...*  
*Editor-in-*

Donald Trump has won the fact. No matter whether you we as citizens of the United what has always defined o to co-exist in spite of

*"The greatest good we can do divisions and make*

*Thomas J.*



*Hamilton G...*  
*Webmaster*

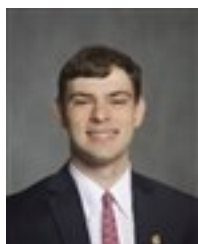
Misinformation can spread sharing of articles by less-th outlets. Be sure to treat each reasonable amount of skepticism all extraordinary claims. If you with this election's result, ed prepare to vote to win the cou party in 2018

# nger think of the 2016 l Election?

aylor

-Chief

e presidency: this is a  
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of differences.



*our country is to heal its party  
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Jefferson



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*Andrew Kaplan*

*News Editor*

The divisiveness of American politics has never been more apparent. However, Clinton only lost by thin margins in a few swing states. The results of the election display discontent with status quo American politics, not a nationwide rejection of the political establishment.



*Philip Scholer*

*Assistant News Editor*

Our government is not centered a single person; it is centered around democracy, and though, democracy may be shaky at times, it will lean towards good.



*John Glover*

*Opinions Editor*

For those people teetering on the edges of apathy or cynicism, it's important to remember that this election didn't happen in a vacuum. The U.S. has survived 250 years of bad leadership, war, and economic downturn; it's not about to fall to something as small as Donald Trump.



*Mac Roberts*

*Assistant Opinions Editor*

We must move past the divisive presidential campaign and get to the things that actually matter—improving the lives of the American people.



*Ben Coulthard*

*Sports Editor*

While I was fervently against Donald Trump's getting elected into the White House as our President, all that we as a nation can hope for is that most of his outrageous campaign promises were publicity in hopes to get votes. America is undoubtedly the greatest nation in the world, and there should be hope and optimism on how our country will move forward in the future of Mr. Trump's presidency.

# What Does the Fox Say? MBA performs *Volpone*

By Jack Capizzi  
Entertainment Editor

"The fox shall here uncase!" So says the title character in *Volpone*, the second installment in Montgomery Bell Academy's "Folio" themed theater season, which became representative of the show's production. While the show was challenging in its outdated diction and complicated meanings, this latest production from the MBA theater department was able to "uncase" the historical play and reveal it to the

audience of The Hill.

*Volpone*, first performed in 1606, was written by Ben Jonson, a contemporary of William Shakespeare's and a provider of numerous plays that spanned the Elizabethan and Jacobian eras. This latest performance of *Volpone*, was directed by Mr. Malcom Morrison and featured fantastic performances from students Harrison Kidd, Amber Steigelfest, John Powell Cooper, Andrew Falls, and Jack Capizzi.

Harrison Kidd, who played *Volpone*, said of the cast, "It was a wonderful group

of people who were able to work with the amazing set, unbelievable costumes, and dark humor of the show, turning it into by far the best play I have ever been in."

An unbelievably talented cast of seniors supported the play through their experience and guidance, which they have gained over the years. Meredith Welborn and Amber Steigelfest led the way onstage, while musician Peter Taylor added *Volpone* to the list of shows for which he has composed fantastic musical pieces. The show was aided in its performance by equally outstanding musical accompaniment from Taylor and Carter Smith.

Jonson's *Volpone* draws on many aspects of Aesop's fables by depicting the clever fox's, Volpone's, tricking three of his suitors into giving him gifts in hope that they will in turn inherit his possessions once he has died. MBA's performance took this ancient tale above and beyond by providing all of the deception, boastfulness, and even slapstick comedy that was needed to put on this acclaimed show.

When asked how the play went, Steigelfest, playing the role of Mosca, said, "*Volpone* was one of the most successful shows I have ever been a part of and many thought that the engagement with the audience made a two hour play feel much shorter."

Mr. Morrison said of the

performance, "This particular group are highly talented and were particularly good at using Jacobian language to be able to explain this story with great clarity."

Mr. Morrison later said of the show, "*Volpone* has a message for everyone about the way we conduct our lives."

Speaking about the varying emotions of the play, Mr. Morrison said, "This intertwining of these somewhat cartoonish characters exemplifies what Ben Jonson wanted to say about the society of London at the time but it is applicable to all societies because these sins, as it were, don't change."

*Volpone* followed the Shakespeare themed set of plays for this year, honoring the arrival of Shakespeare's folio to the Parthenon. In addition to performing the play at MBA, a group of MBA players took a trip down West End to perform a scene from *Volpone* directly in front of the folio for an audience eager to learn more about the history of the Bard. The event was a resounding success and will be followed by more performances and activities at the Parthenon, which will be put on by other members of the MBA community as a way to celebrate the folio.

This production saw a great cast of actors come together over a series of months to put on an extremely difficult and complex play. The final result was a fantastic set of performances, which gave the audience moments of laughter, inquiry, and amazement. *Volpone* was a success by all means and will not be forgotten for a long time.



**GET THEE TO THE SCRUTINEO:** Mr. Morrison tackled this ambitious Jacobean comedy in celebration of MBA's folio season commemorating Shakespeare and by extension his contemporary Ben Jonson.

## Yorgan Petit: Unsung Hero of Campus

By Joe Spear  
Assistant Features Editor

Here at MBA, in the midst of the busy lives we lead, we often forget why our campus looks so beautiful and why all of our campus amenities are in such good shape. The reason? Because of our strong maintenance team. The maintenance team members on campus are without a doubt the unsung heroes of the school and are some of the nicest men on campus.

For this issue, *The Bell Ringer* had the opportunity to sit down with one of the maintenance team members, Mr. Yorgan Petit. Mr. Petit and his family are originally from Cuba, but because of all of the political unrest and disarray stemming from the Fidel Castro-run communist regime, he applied for refugee status in the United States. Six years later, in 2001, he was notified by the U.S. embassy that he and his family would be coming to the United States. He and his family arrived in Nashville on February 5, 2002, and with the help of Clay Bailey and David Norton, he landed a job here at MBA. He has been here ever since and received full citizenship in 2014.

**JS: When did you first start**

**working here at MBA? Do you enjoy it here?**

YP: I came to MBA in 2002. MBA is one of my favorite places to be. It's a wonderful environment.

**JS: I understand that you are an active drummer and have even participated in some events on campus. How did you first get introduced to that?**

YP: I first started drumming when I was eight years old. My father, mother, and grandfathers were all professional musicians, so I learned a lot from them. I was also put into a government-sponsored music conservatory that taught me a lot of my music skills with the timpani, cymbals, conga, and the xylophone.

**JS: What all have you done to engage that skill here at MBA? What is your favorite type of music to drum to?**

YP: Well, I have learned a lot from the music department here, and also the different bands. I have performed at several of the concerts, such as the Christmas and Spring ones, which has been very fun. I particularly love to drum to salsa and jazz music.

**JS: Why, in particular, do you love MBA?**



**UNsung HERO OF THE HILL:** Joe Spear, Assistant Features Editor for The Bell Ringer, sat down with Yorgan Petit, whose face many students recognize but few truly know.

YP: I absolutely love the people and the environment. This campus is beautiful, the staff is my family, and you boys are my kids. It's like a family here, and I have had the opportunity to get to drum and actively participate in the music department.

**The maintenance staff are some of the coolest men on campus, so if you**

**run into any or have the opportunity to chat with one, do not hesitate. They have great stories to share and will most definitely brighten your day. The Bell Ringer gives thanks to the maintenance staff for all of their hard work they perform every day to make our campus look so great.**

# Chicago Art Entices Womack's Seniors

By Peter Taylor  
Editor-in-Chief

Bright and early on the morning of Friday, November 4, five students of Mr. Womack's AP Art History class met at the airport for a trip they'd spent weeks awaiting: the Chicago Trip.

The Chicago Trip has a storied history at MBA. It used to happen over Fall Break as a collaboration between the Art and Theater Departments, specifically Mr. Womack and Dr. Fuller. Over the course of three days, MBA's art and theater students alike would spend the daytime walking around the Windy City, experiencing the city's art and architecture under the masterful guidance of Mr. Womack before going to shows at night. This iteration of the trip was stopped several years ago, however, because the cost of the Chicago's food, airfare, and hotels eventually became too expensive.

Mr. Womack was therefore thrilled to announce to his Art History class this year that he would be bringing back the trip with the help of his son, Mr. Robert Womack '00, Latin and Art History teacher over at Harpeth Hall. Laying out the itinerary for the weekend, he explained they would leave early on a Friday morning to return in the evening of the next day. Several of class members quickly signed on, the others unable to make it because of various pre-scheduled conflicts, including the cross country state meet.

Before the trip's details had even been finalized, Mr. Womack was very excited about the trip's potential to encourage and support the interest in art that thrives at MBA, particularly among his small group of devoted Art History students, who have eschewed the more practical and perhaps beneficial senior history credit alternatives of Economics or Government in favor of a more cerebral, less tangible course in the study of human artistic expression. Mr. Womack sees the decline in taking Art

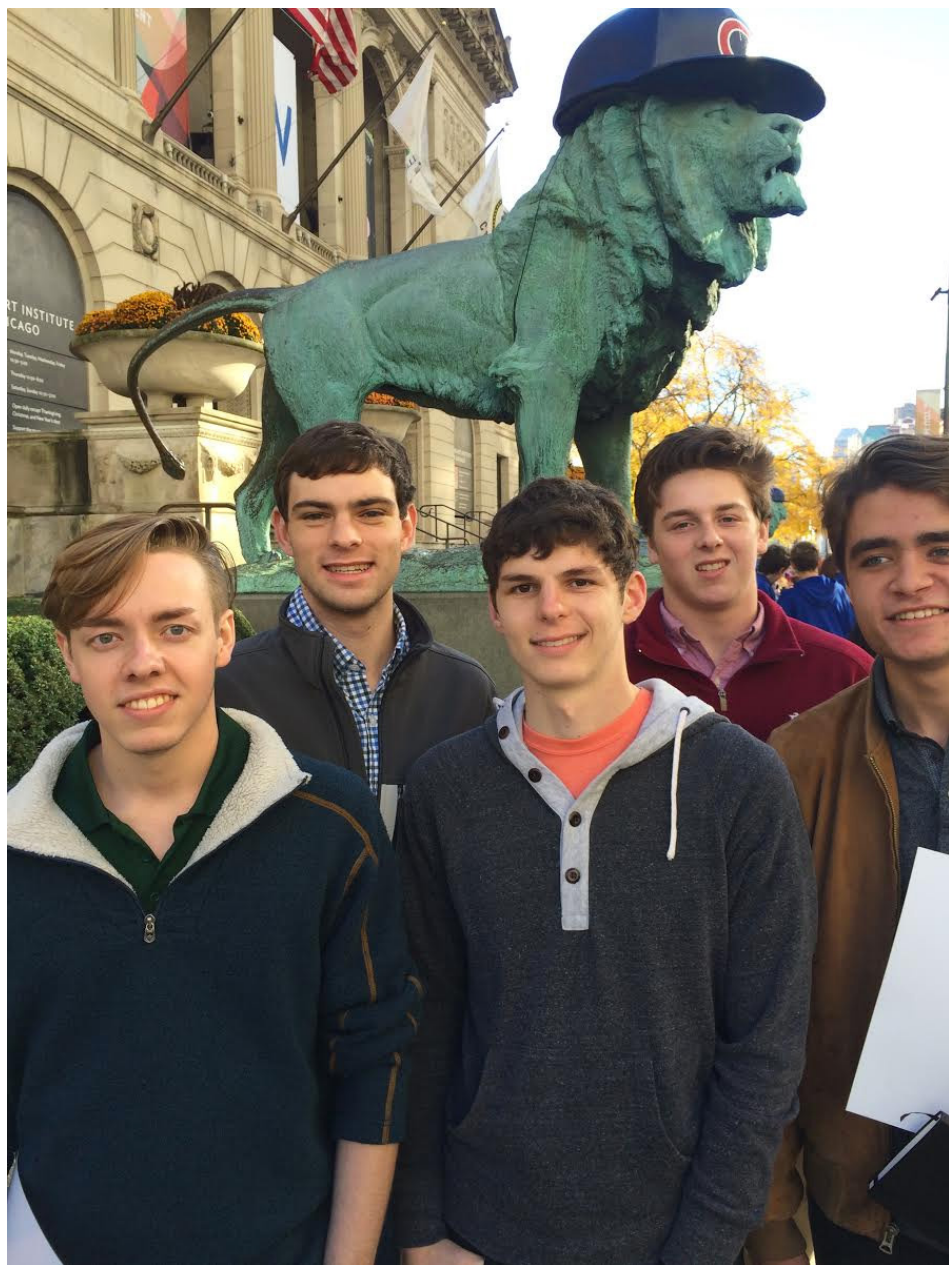
History not as reflective of the curiosity of the students but rather the necessity of financial or political understanding in the modern world.

"Our world is becoming more and more visual, so I thought art history would give me more tools to help navigate," said Cole Thornton '17 about his decision to take Art History. "Also it makes travel a lot more interesting."

The trip's dynamic was radically different from that of the average day in Art History, not just because the students were confronting art firsthand but also because of the ladies of Harpeth Hall who joined the MBA boys on the trip. While they may not have all picked up on Mr. Womack's witty wordplay, the Harpeth Hall students were able to provide unique perspectives on the art and architecture based on their differing studies. Their presence also provided a nice change of pace for the boys of The Hill, who are so used to the lack of girls in an academic or intellectual environment.

"Seeing the art in person added a human aspect to the work that I didn't feel when I was seeing it on a projector," Sara Hanson '17 said of the experience. "When I could see the art in front of me, it became less abstract and I felt a connection to the artist who spent many hours with the work." She also added about the co-educational opportunity, "It's always nice to meet new people."

Even after planning the trip nearly three months in advance, Mr. Womack could never have accounted for the Cubs' World Series win. On Friday morning, after checking into the hotel, the classes had to weave their way to the Art Institute of Chicago through the early parade spectators, many of whom were already smoking cigars or drinking alcoholic beverages at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Womack was able to use the line "Jim Womack from Montgomery Bell Academy" to get his class through various fences guarded by policeman meant to keep the parade under control.



**GO CUBS GO:** Five of Mr. Womack's eight AP Art History students just outside of the Art Institute of Chicago, the outside of which was surrounded by a massive parade celebrating the Chicago Cubs' recent World Series win.

The Art Institute of Chicago was the primary artistic venue visited by the travellers. One of the most renowned museums in the country, the Institute houses several varied content areas ranging from 20th century Modernism to Ancient Greece to its notable

Impressionist exhibit, including the work "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte," recognizable to many for its prominent inclusion in the 1986 John Hughes film *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

The group also visited the Museum of Contemporary Art, where they explored some very puzzling and striking pieces. The highlight for Bryce Ardisson '17 was certainly "Witness," an eight and a half minute video about the infamous photographer Kevin Carter.

On Saturday, the group toured the Robie house, a work of modern architecture by the noted Frank

Lloyd Wright that embodies the architect's "Prairie style," where a building is dominated by flat roofs and low-hanging eaves.

The students also walked down the street to the museum of the University of Chicago, which housed a stunning collection of Near-East artifacts and arts, including a full-sized Lamassu figure and a replica of the Code of Hammurabai.

The trip wasn't complete until lunch at Gino's, a famous purveyor of Chicago deep dish pizza. The pizza took nearly an hour to cook, but everyone agreed that it was ultimately worth the wait. After lunch, the group headed back to the airport for home.

Mr. Womack responded affirmatively when asked if he would consider doing the trip again in its new form. He additionally told his Art History class, "For me it was also a proud moment to travel with my son and his class. I cannot tell you how much fun it was for me to show you some of the sights of a city I find fascinating."

The trip was ultimately a grand success as an educational and enjoyable experience. Perhaps this article will serve as inspiration for any underclassmen considering pursuing Art History during their junior or senior years. Every student in the current section would advise it.

**PRAIRIE STYLE:** On the final day of the trip, the group visited the Robie House, a noted work of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture on the campus of the University of Chicago. The house is preserved by the Frank Lloyd Preservation Trust.



# Bob Dylan: Nobel Prize Caps Fruitful Career

By Peter Taylor  
Editor-in-Chief

On October 13, 2016, Bob Dylan became the first musician to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature for “having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition,” as stated by the Nobel Committee. He is the first American to win the prestigious literary award since Toni Morrison in 1993.

The Nobel Prize in Literature differs from the other Nobel Prizes in that it does not recognize a specific contribution to a field, instead honoring lifetime significance in the art of literary expression. The decision to award such a prize, whose laureates include frequent staples of MBA’s English curriculum: William Faulkner, T. S. Eliot, and W. B. Yeats, among a host of others, has therefore been a controversial one on multiple levels.

Dylan has maintained a storied and varied career for more than 50 years. Born Robert Zimmerman, he changed his surname to reflect the influence of Dylan Thomas, the renowned Welsh poet. Since the beginning of his career, Dylan has maintained a poetic touch throughout his songwriting that has not only distinguished him from his contemporaries but placed him on a pedestal from which many critics and fans view him as one of the greatest poets of the 20th century.

“I’ve always said that Bob Dylan would go down as the best poet of his generation,” said Mr. Roderick Russ, MBA English teacher and cross country head coach.

Dylan once said, “Picasso had fractured the art world and cracked it wide open. He was revolutionary. I wanted to be like that.” Indeed, Dylan has been

compared by some critics to the painter in the way that his career boasts several distinctly unique stylistic periods. Novelist Joyce Carol Oates once said to the same effect, “Dylan went through so many transformations, emotionally and musically and even physically, that he must be a fictional character.”

Dylan is perhaps most famous for one of his shortest periods: his early folk career. On his monumental album *The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan*, the songwriter slings nothing but a guitar, a harmonica, and his characteristically scratchy voice (at its smoothest in his early period). Politically charged songs like “Blowin’ in the Wind” and “Oxford Town” have indeed come to define what Dylan represents for many casual listeners. Also present on the album is the majestic “A Hard Rain is Gonna Fall,” which foreshadows what would eventually be the common denominator throughout his varied career: long, imagistic word canvasses with intriguing and startling lyrics.

In 1965, to the chagrin of some and the excitement of others, Dylan went electric. His devoted folk fans called him Judas. More people got on board with his Rolling Stones-style raw electric blues sound, typified by two of his masterpiece albums *Highway 61 Revisited* and *Blonde on Blonde*. His song “Like a Rolling Stone” is a still a staple of classic-rock radio, inspired by ten pages of poetry Dylan wrote in a fury.

After a motorcycle accident, Dylan returned more to folk rock with songs like “Girl from North Country” on *Nashville Skyline* for the rest of the 60s. With the advent of the 70s, Dylan’s output became incredibly eclectic and varied according to most critics. Perhaps his most important album of the period was *Blood on the*

*Tracks*, which was originally received with mixed reviews, though ultimately termed by Bill Wyman as “the only flawless album he ever produced.”

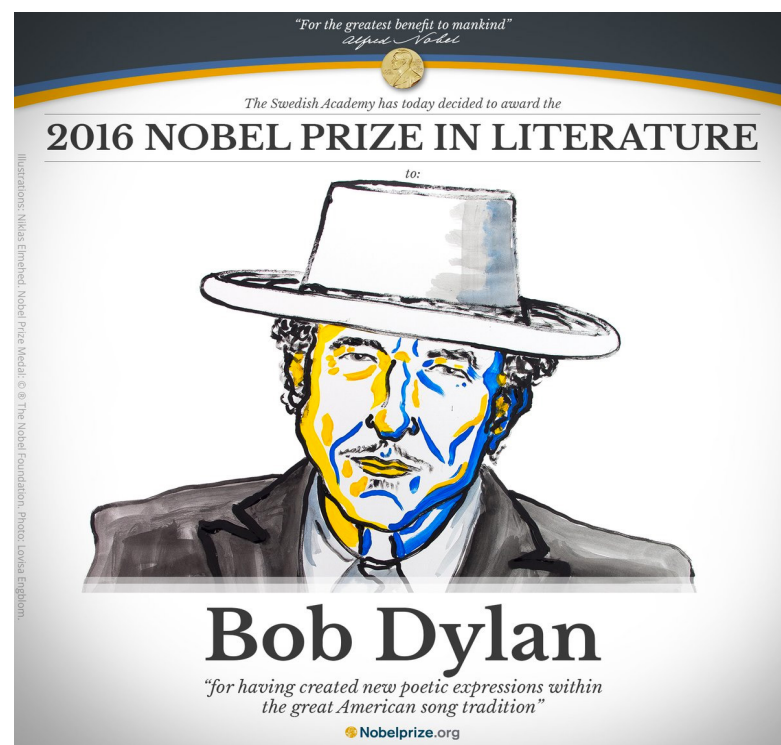
In the late 70s, upon becoming a born-again Christian, Dylan’s work similarly adjusted before settling into a bit of lull in the 80s. Dylan

returned in 1997 with his “comeback” album *Time Out of Mind*, which won a Grammy for Album of the Year. On the album is the magnificent track “Not Dark Yet,” which contains the line frequently cited as justification for Dylan’s taking home the Nobel Prize: “Behind every beautiful thing there’s been some kind of pain.”

Many people, scholars and ordinary listeners alike, have adamantly defended the decision. Mr. Haywood Moxley, Chair of the MBA English Department and noted Dylan fan, remarked that “as long as I’ve listened to that guy, I’ve thought ‘that’s poetry.’”

Others disagree. Mr. Win Bassett, MBA

English teacher, offered his opinion and quoted an essay he read in *The New York Times*: “He is great because he is a great musician, and when the Nobel committee gives the literature prize to a musician, it misses the



**SONGWRITER -POET:** Bob Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in recognition of the poetic quality of his lyrics.

opportunity to honor a writer.”

There is certainly a middle camp, however. In this group, there are people who believe that Dylan’s lyrics and songs are certainly worthy to be classified with the Walcotts and Nerudas of the world, but believe that Prize would have better benefited other, equally brilliant writers who lack the exposure that Dylan’s commercial success has given him.

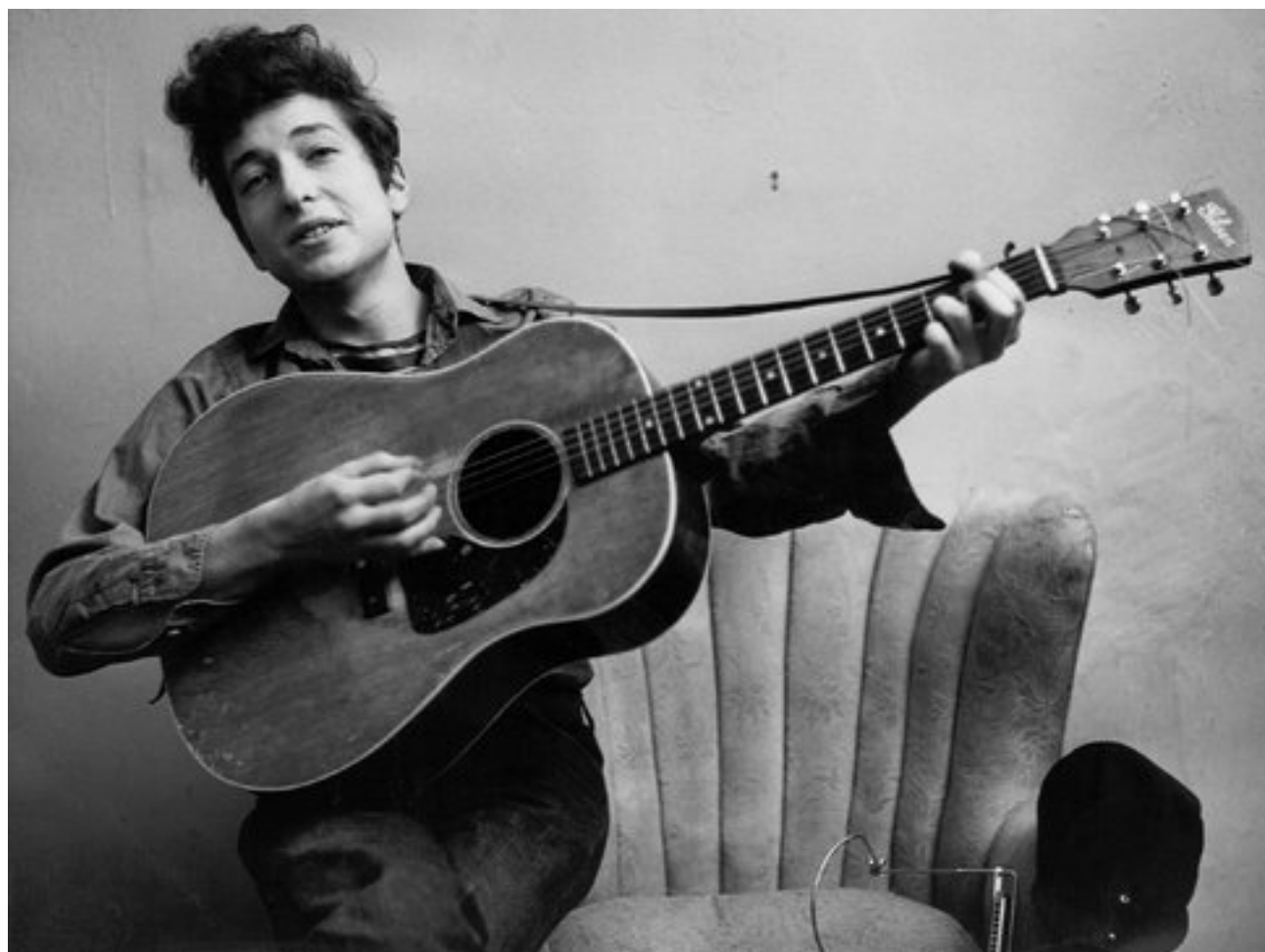
“Dylan is awesome, and I’m delighted to see him recognized—not least because the news has cut into the persistent flow of election hysteria on social media,” said Dr. Ed Tarkington, MBA English teacher and published novelist who falls into the aforementioned group. “I must say, however, that I’m a little bummed for Don DeLillo, the American novelist I consider most deserving of the Nobel. It’s been 23 years since an American won the prize; DeLillo’s 79, so I’m afraid his odds just got really long.”

“I’m very divided,” echoed Norwegian writer Karl Ove Knausgaard to *The Guardian*. “I love that the Nobel committee opens up for other kinds of literature – lyrics and so on. I think that’s brilliant. But knowing that Dylan is the same generation as Thomas Pynchon, Philip Roth, Cormac McCarthy, makes it very difficult for me to accept it.”

According to NPR, though he “wishes he could receive the prize personally,” Bob Dylan will not fly to Stockholm to accept the prize. The Nobel committee initially had trouble reaching Dylan upon the awarding. MBA English teacher Dr. Sean Kinch said about such an apparently blasé attitude on Dylan’s part, “That’s so rock and roll.”

Bob Dylan’s storied career has led to his recognition not only as a musician and lyricist but as a writer and a poet. Only time will tell if this recognition endures.

**BOB DYLAN’S DREAM:** Dylan in the early ‘60s, armed with just a guitar. Dylan started his career as a folk artist in the vein of Woody Guthrie and Dave Von Rank, beginning his career at the famous Gaslight Café in New York City.



# New A\$AP Project Comforts Fans

By Harrison Kidd  
Staff Foxcatcher

The recent release of A\$AP Mob's newest project, *Cozy Tapes Volume One: Friends*, has sparked excitement from music lovers everywhere. The group has previously released mixtapes and albums as individuals but never a group album as they did a few weeks ago.

The album was a shock to some, displaying to new audiences the wide range of talent possessed by the group. But to those who have previously heard the group's music, it was yet another

success. Some featured performances in the album, namely Lil Uzi Vert, Lil Yachty, and Tyler, The Creator, are not normally associated with the A\$AP style of "chopped and screwed," the sound created by broken up beats filled with guns reloading and cash machines ch-chinging.

However, all three of these rappers stand their ground in the album. Their presence significantly improves the album's quality and displays new capabilities from each artist which were previously dormant. Additionally, the project makes use of the popularity of Lil

Yachty and Lil Uzi Vert, creating an easy way to draw in new audiences. Many other rappers are featured, including Juicy J, Wiz Khalifa, ONYX, MadeinTYO, and, Skepta, a British rapper whose popularity in the states has been growing exponentially for the last few years.

Three of the songs on the album, "Yamborghini high," "Put That on my Set," and "Money Man," were released as singles before the album's release. "Yamborghini high" was released in honor of group member A\$AP Yams' death.

A\$AP Mob's attempt to immortalize and honor their dead member is clear. In addition to "Yamborghini High," the rapper is depicted as a baby on the cover of the album. "Money Man" and "Put That on My Set" were pre-released in a short film from A\$AP Rocky. The album reflects the tone of the short film. It contains a shadowy procession of glooming but powerful tracks. The video project should definitely be viewed with the album, as it adds a certain level of depth to the project.

From the beginning of the album, the listeners' attention is jerked violently until the end of "Telephone Calls." Much of the A\$AP crew appears in *Cozy Tapes*, with heavy presence from Rocky with the other features from Twelvyy, Ferg, Ant, and

Nast.

Most of the songs, from "Way Hii," "Crazy Brazy," "Money Man", and "Bachelor" embodied what A\$AP is best at: rugged, risque, bass heavy, "gangster" rap (think YG or Schoolboy Q). Anyone, from "bass heads" to those obsessed with lyrical prowess, can find something to latch on to when listening to A\$AP Mob. Rap tends to be a selection of songs with good beats, evocative lyrics, or powerful voice, often including only one of these features from song to song.

A\$AP Mob is a group that has mastered this holy triumvirate of sorts and broken the age-old conundrum. Heart gripping beats, lyrics with the ability to pump blood through your veins, or statements that freeze the senses with statements on the principles of life are all used by the Mob with their clear, sharp voices.

The Mob created a perfect mix songs personifying sober melancholia, loss and hardship, and living "the life" with riches, fame, and all the pleasures that come with it. Songs like "Put that on my Set," "Young N\*\*\*\*a Living," and parts of "Telephone Calls," delve into a deeper, darker part of the collective mind that is A\$AP Mob. Loss is frequently mentioned and is embraced in the more anguish-filled songs of A\$AP. The presence of this emotion is understandable due to the tragedy of A\$AP Yams' death.

The brilliance *Cozy Tapes* encompasses makes it arguably one of the best albums of the year. Additionally, given its name, *Cozy Tapes Volume One*, hopefully A\$AP fans can expect addendums to the Tapes in the near future.

**LOTS OF SMILING FACES:** The new album from A\$AP Mob has comforted many fans who were unsure of the group's future following the death of member 'Yams' pictured below.



# Holy Trinity Makes Return with *The Grand Tour*

By Mac Roberts  
Assistant Opinion Editor

The wait is finally over. The highly anticipated new motoring show *The Grand Tour* has made its debut on Amazon Prime. For months, motoring enthusiasts and comedy lovers alike have been raking through automotive magazines and forums for any rumor that may give a hint as to what the new show might be like.

In case you haven't been following the news, here's a little back information. Motoring journalist Jeremy Clarkson recently got into a bit of trouble when he allegedly punched a producer of his (former) show *Top Gear* on BBC. The BBC decided not to have Clarkson on the show anymore. His co-producers, Richard Hammond and James May, decided that the trio could never be broken up and decided that it was Jeremy's way or the highway. They took the highway.

Now, the trio of comedic car

enthusiasts has returned to television, and they mean business. Amazon has invested heavily in its new show, and you can tell from the opening scene of the first episode. It is almost laughable how over the top it is. The first episode opens with a procession of over forty exotic vehicles and a band playing to a large crowd—all set in the middle of the California desert. This all seems so unnecessary, but who cares, this is arguably going to be the most exciting and loved motoring show in history.

Also making an appearance in episode one is what Jeremy Clarkson calls "the holy trinity of hypercars," this of course consisting of the Porsche 918, the McLaren P1, and the Ferrari La Ferrari. These three have never been tested together on the same track at the same time. Jeremy in the McLaren, Richard in the Porsche, and James in the Ferrari took their favorite ride around and around the racetrack in

rural Portugal.

These wonderful excessive uses of Amazon's cash are just a preview of what is to come. Amazon has agreed to thirty-six episodes over three years. If you would like to watch,

make sure you or your parents have Amazon Prime, and a new episode comes out every Friday on Amazon Video.

**THEY'RE BACK:** Clarkson, Hammond, and May make their much anticipated return to the screen in their new show, *The Grand Tour*, their first show in two years.



# Big Red Debate Continues Streak of Success

By Aden Barton  
Staff Debate Correspondant

Since the season opening at the Greenhill tournament in Texas, the debate team has only kept performing well in tournaments. As debate coach Mr. Clark has been known to say, "The best debate teams are determined not by the first tournament, but by the following few tournaments, to show which teams continue to perform."

The teams that do the most research and work the hardest tend to stay on top. And the MBA debate team has proven it is here to stay.

The year began at the New Trier tournament in Chicago, with Liam Jameson and Atticus Glen defeating a team from Iowa City who clinched the championship. Though narrowly losing to Iowa City in Semifinals, Ben Jablonski and John Cooper also had a very successful tournament.

Because of the massive size of the debate team, great amounts of research and work is done by all of the debaters between tournaments. Every partnership is responsible for a certain amount of preparing and researching its own specific arguments. Each member of the team is able to contribute and produce work even by just doing a little.

The debate team next went to the St. Marks school in Texas for its third large national tournament. MBA again dominated across the board. Four teams made it to elimination rounds, and all four teams won to get four bids to the Tournament of Champions. To put that into perspective, no other school has more than one team in elimination rounds, much less more than one team in octofinals.

Partners Liam Jameson and Atticus Glen lost in Octofinals and team mates Ben Jablonski and John Cooper made it to quarterfinals. Seniors Andrew Kaplan and Ben Rosenthal made it to semifinals before losing to their rivals from Peninsula.

Not only did the debate team dominate in the varsity section, but in the Sophomore Hoe Down as well. The Sophomore Hoe Down is a round robin tournament comprised of the best sophomore debaters from around the country. For the second year in a row, an MBA debater was named the top speaker. Jack Rankin secured top speaker with teammates following close behind—Jack Harrington (2nd speaker), then Sam Funk (5th speaker) and William Bradford (11th Speaker). Each team cleared to elimination rounds, and Jack Rankin and Sam Funk made it to semifinals. William Bradford and Jack Harrington lost in quarterfinals.

After the St. Marks Tournament, another coaches' poll was released, ranking the top 25 teams in the nation. This time, partners John Cooper and Ben Jablonski were moved up in the poll, resting at an impressive #13.

After a brief pause, the team set out again the weekend before Halloween to the University of Michigan for one of the biggest tournaments of the year. Before the actual tournament began, there were two round robins with an all seniors round robin and an all juniors round robin. Debaters Aden Barton and Ben Jablonski headed up three days early with Mr. Clark to compete in the Juniors competition. After two days of rigorous debating, they emerged the victors, going 8-0 and securing first and second speakers at the competition. The partnership mirrored the success of last year's team at the Juniors Round Robin by again going undefeated and being named the two top speakers at the competition.

Once the main tournament began, five other debate partnerships from MBA came up to compete. With 145



**BIG RED DEBATE!** Several top members of the MBA Debate squad go toe-to-toe about the strengths and weaknesses of the presidential candidates at assembly.

debate partnerships registered, the field was giant. Again the debate team did well, with five teams clearing to the elimination rounds. All 5 teams won their first double-finals rounds to secure five bids to the Tournament of Champions. Two sophomores, Jack Harrington and William Bradford, got their bid with a very impressive win against the number five seed. Harrington and Bradford were the 27th seed but still managed to edge out a very strong team to clear to octofinals. No other school had more than two teams in the octo-finals, let alone five. The partnership of Liam Jameson and Atticus Glen advanced the farthest out of any MBA team before losing in semifinals to the number three team in the nation.

The next coaches' poll is slated to come out before the next tournament, MBA teams hope to keep rising. As the season goes on, the depth of the MBA debate team has ascended to better and better tournament finishes.

As far as Novice debate season goes, at the Chattahoochee tournament in Georgia, three MBA teams advanced to

the elimination rounds and partnerships of Connor Kolstad and Will King combined with Brawner and Colin Smith. The novice team also has a bright season ahead with many new talented debaters joining every season. The first year debate room is larger than ever, with more and more kids at MBA venturing to try debate. As a result, the team has only gotten more and more talented. The number of Novice and Junior Varsity tournaments increase later in the year, and the teams aim to continue to do well at those tournaments.

One thing that stands out about the team is the fact that even though they consistently perform well, the squad is still very young. On the coaches' poll, there were only two Sophomores on the top 25 team list. Both of them come from MBA, as Julian Habermann and Atticus Glen consistently beat out Juniors and Seniors at high level rounds. Even though our team is full of talented seniors, there is still a bright future for the team after they graduate.

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## Cont. from Front Page

safety Gordon Pollock shut down the powerful Eagle offense. Limiting their big plays and containing Brentwood Academy quarterback Jeremiah Oatsvall, the defense continued to force stops and give the ball back to the offense. On offense, senior running back Ty Chandler took care of business. Playing with a new level of emotion, Chandler ran all over the Eagle defense accumulating 341 rushing yards and 4 touchdowns behind an offensive line that controlled the line of scrimmage all night. The defense closed the door with a late interception from junior cornerback Fenner Pollock, and the Big Red came away with a 31-24 victory over the Eagles.

After eight grueling games, the Big Red were finally at their bye week and given some time to recover from the physical game with Brentwood Academy. But that down time passed quickly and Team 118 was on to a homecoming game with the Baylor Red Raiders.

The MBA defense played another outstanding game and forced stops, however the offense could not get things going as the Red Raiders had come to play. MBA and Baylor went into halftime at a 3-3 tie. After coming out of the locker room, the Big Red's body blows in the first half paid off and the offense finally kicked into gear while the defense continued to hold strong as MBA ran away with a 31-10 victory on senior night.

As seniors reflected upon their final season nearing an end, Logan Cashwell spoke about the class of 2017's legacy on the MBA football program. "We've had fun. We've had a lot of good classes that came before us and taught us the right way to do it. We've put in hard work, but at the same time we know that at the end of the day it's a game and we play the sport to have fun and have lasting memories and friendships. I think we've done that, so I think our legacy is that there is a time to have fun but then there's a time to flip the switch and go to work and be serious."

To Cashwell's comments, senior captain Brett Starr added, "I feel like we've really tried to set an example for the younger guys letting them know how to lead, how to work hard, and how to represent MBA as football players. I think that's something that lasts and carries on for

generations because the seniors have always held a high standard and have taught the younger guys how to follow."

With the win over Baylor, the Big Red, sitting at 8-1 on the season, had clinched their region championship and a number one seed in the upcoming playoffs. But business was not finished and the team knew that as well. They still had a rivalry game on the road against Ensworth.

As the Big Red travelled down Highway 100, the Tigers came ready to play too. MBA jumped out to an early 10-0 lead as junior quarterback Ty Allen connected with senior wide receiver Montgomery Owen for a touchdown and senior kicker Dean Cheevers put one through the uprights. Ensworth responded with a score before the half, and the Big Red were in a dogfight. With the run game struggling and Ty Chandler on and off the trainer's table all night, Allen and Cheevers both led the Big Red scoring who held a 20-7 advantage going into the fourth quarter. Ensworth once again responded to the MBA blows and the Tigers' second fourth quarter touchdown with just over two minutes left in the game was the deciding factor as Ensworth prevailed on their senior night 21-20.

While the loss to a rival was disappointing, the night changed MBA's season. As the team sat on the field postgame, senior captain Connor Mulloy told the group to turn around and absorb the Ensworth student section celebrating. Then he changed the focus and reminded the disheartened team that they still had the playoffs ahead, and challenged them to remember the feeling of losing to Ensworth. Thus began the redemption run to Cookeville.

Speaking about the loss, senior offensive lineman Josh Key said, "I really think it put us in gear for the playoffs. It gave us a drive to want to beat Christian Brothers. To me it really just seems like everybody has been working harder and taking it a little bit more seriously because they know their days are numbered." And beat Christian Brothers they did. After a bye week to refocus following the loss to Ensworth, MBA came out and rolled in the first half leading 21-0 at the break. The defense continued to play well and the offense poured it on the second half as the Big Red came away with a 35-14 victory over the Purple Wave. Next up for Team 118, a chance for redemption versus the

Ensworth Tigers with a berth in the state championship on the line.

This time the two rivals would meet on MBA's field in what was the last game that the 2017 seniors would play at Tommy Owen Stadium no matter the result. Knowing it was their last home game, their goal was to not make it their last game. Ensworth jumped out to a 17-0 lead early in the game against the Big Red and the team could feel that things were getting away from them. It was time for to find the identity of Team 118. With the challenges of losing their starting left tackle Jackson Lampley, the next man had to step up and that was senior Wyeth Patton. Patton and the offensive line turned things around and made sure that this would not be the last game of the season for MBA. A touchdown completion from Ty Allen to Ty Chandler made the score 17-7 at the half. The defense had played a solid first half despite what the scoreboard showed, and they were out to prove themselves in the second half of play. The Big Red defense shut the Tigers out in the second half and the offense responded by marching down the field for key scores. Allen scrambled into the end zone to cut the Big Red deficit to three. With the pressure on, the defense responded and senior linebacker Brett Starr came up with an interception that gave the MBA great field position. From there, Ty Chandler put the team on his back and plowed through Tiger defenders for a touchdown the give the MBA their first lead of the night. The defense went back out, forced an Ensworth punt, and the Big Red never gave the ball back. Ty Allen sealed the deal with a gutsy scramble for a first down, and MBA was able to kneel the ball and escape with a 21-17 victory in a game of redemption for their regular season loss. On to the state championship for the Big Red.

MBA will travel to Cookeville for a third consecutive year to play for the state title. This season, Team 118 will be faced with a rematch of last year's 56-55 double overtime loss at the hands of the Brentwood Academy Eagles with redemption on their minds. With one of the most successful senior classes graduating and so much on the line there has been plenty of reflection on the



**TY FIGHTER!** UT commit Ty Chandler, poised to take Team 118 to victory at the State Championship.

past four years. Senior captain Micah Battle summarized it perfectly saying, "MBA football has been everything to me. Coming in as a freshman, I didn't know anybody. MBA football is really what started my friendships here and relationships with coaches. It has really built me into a man. That's really what the coaches try to instill into us. It has just been a blessing that I have been able to come and play football here for the past four years."

Tonight, look for a battle between two talented teams fighting for the right to call themselves state champions. The Big Red defense must do as they did before, shut down the Eagle offense through containing Jeremiah Oatsvall, limiting big plays, and getting 11 players to the ball each play. The offense on the other hand will rely upon Ty Chandler and Ty Allen to control the game. Chandler brings a physical running style that wears the defense down while Allen has the arm to beat teams over the top if they focus too heavily on the run game. No matter how tonight ends, it has been a season to remember for Team 118 and the MBA football program.



# Big Red Cross Country Team Finishes Solidly

By Collin Ragsdale  
Staff Trail Pup

As the dust settles on the worn cross-country trails, and tattered shoes are given their final rests in the dark recesses of closets, the Big Red cross country team can reflect upon their accomplishments of this 2016 season and be proud of the team that emerged from the thousands of miles run throughout the course of the season. This season, like any other, was full of highs and lows, but through it all, this dedicated group of brothers managed to stick together and grind through the scorching summer days, the torrential downpours, the grueling tempo workouts and, yes, even Coach Pruitt's annual antics that have become a defining aspect of the Big Red Harriers.

**DOGS:** Five seniors on the MBA cross country team: Tom Peters, Richard White, Will Peters, Cole Thornton, and Alden Ferguson.



Early successes brought a strong sense of optimism to the Big Red trail pups. As the team travelled to distant lands as far as Owensboro and Louisville to compete against foreign opponents, the team performed well. In these extremely competitive meets that boasted the best teams throughout the Southeast, the Big Red held more than their own against tough competition. Highlights of the season included a resounding win at the Sharp Springs Invitational in Smyrna, where the Big Red Harriers amassed strong finishes at both the Varsity and JV levels. When asked about the team's success, team captain Will Peters had this to say: "This team came a long way. Every race has featured a different combination of the varsity seven, which shows great depth. Although the State

Championship did not end the way we had hoped, we grew a lot as a team and competed hard. I am proud to have been a leader of a great group of harriers."

As captain, Will led this experienced group of runners through the good and the bad, through injuries and both victories and defeats. Behind Will was one of the most competitive teams in recent MBA history. On the varsity squad alone, five seniors helped lead the team. Having run together since the seventh grade, seniors Will Peters, Tom Peters, Alden Ferguson, Cole Thornton, and Collin Ragsdale served as the core of the tightly knit team that bonded over the course of countless miles. In light of the heavily senior populated varsity squad, Coach Roderick Russ said this about the myriad veteran experience: "This year's team included a special group of seniors that have been four-year varsity runners, including Tom Peters and Collin Ragsdale who achieved the rare feat of running in the State meet four straight years. Also, Will Peters and Alden Ferguson were outstanding leaders this year, setting an example by working harder than anyone else on the team and also with their unbridled enthusiasm each and every day." Nowhere was this experience more evident than on the day of 2016 TSSAA State Cross Country Championship meet. On that breezy day, as the long grass of Steeplechase flowed in the wind, the varsity squad

spiked up to the roaring support of the Big Red Animal House. After an entire season of training, sweat, and dedication, this band of brothers proudly wore the cardinal and silver that is the Big Red line, a tradition of excellence in running that few other schools can proudly proclaim.

Unfortunately, the team's dreams of a state title were tarnished by the rigid competition. The Big Red narrowly missed the podium after finishing in fourth behind Brentwood Academy, Father Ryan, and Christian Brothers.

Despite the underwhelming performance at state, the fact that the Big Red had a successful season is undeniable. Years from now, when the memories of individual race results have faded, the lasting friendships and fraternity are what will remain. Rather than dwell upon the final results, the unparalleled success of this team has been defined by the sense of unity that drove a group of individuals to become one team, one squad, and one fraternity.

The future is bright for the Big Red, as proven by the maturity of younger runners Isaac Wills, Joseph Tarquine, and Graham Ragsdale, who assume responsibility in critical moments and serve as vital parts to the team. Watch out for the Big Red, as the team will remain extremely competitive for years to come.

Many thanks to all of the coaches and supporters that carried us runners through the demanding season. "Go run, you hillbillies."

## Big Red Hockey Hits Ice

By Robert Cowan  
Staff Iceman

It has been another impressive start to the Big Red hockey team during this 2016-2017 season. The team is 11-0 as of November 13. The boys started off the season in Kentucky with two games against the Rampage, and after knocking the rust off with these two games, the boys were ready for GNASH play. The GNASH season started off with two games to determine the divisions for the season. The Big Red played Hume-Fogg (10-0 win), Centennial (6-1), and then, before

**DOGS:** The five Senior members of the Big Red Hockey Varsity team: Jacob Kovick, Nick Ray, Ellis Moore, Jack Anderson, and Noah Wamble.



the start of GNASH, the boys took another trip to Kentucky, where the Big Red took down the Shamrocks of Trinity. After a 6-0 start, the Big Red were placed into the Gold division and were ready to start the regular season.

Before every game, Coach Tim Kovick always says, "Play fast and leave no doubt." Starting the regular season, the team knew they had targets on their back and are this year's team to beat. The boys started the season with a rematch of last year's state game. The Big Red stomped all over the Ravenwood Raptors with a 7-3 win, and then with the next four

games, the team didn't take the foot off the pedal. Through the five games of the regular season, the boys have left no doubt on who the best team is. Opponents have only scored 7 goals (all thanks to Wamble the Tank) while the offense, led by Jacob Kovick (10 points), has scored 31 goals.

Captain Jacob Kovick had this to say about the impressive start: "The team is doing well sitting at 11-0, but we really need to not be complacent with our skills. We are the most talented team in the league, and as long as we play our game, nobody can come close to us." Jacob is right; the team cannot get caught up in the fact that they are good. They need to come out every game the same way. Assistant Coach William Floyd (Class of 2006) had this to say about the season so far: "I think we have a tremendous group of guys who are committed to each other. While we are still very early in the season, I like the direction the team is headed. They are working hard, getting better every day, and developing



solid chemistry with one another. However, I do believe we have yet to face our biggest test, which will be how we handle adversity."

There is a lot of hype surrounding this year's team. This is the best hockey team MBA has ever had, with only 1 loss over the past two years, and the team has the most talented lineup. Please come out and support the Big Red as much as possible, and help us make another run to the championship!

# New NFL Stadium Designs Win Big

By John Raulston Graham  
Staff Architect

Football has long been America's most popular sport. However, the popularity of the NFL has been waning in the past couple of years. As a result, there has been a rush by the NFL as a whole and the individual organizations to fix the NFL's recent popularity problem. A new venue has been a common way to insight the fan base and to serve as a source of steady profit for teams that have been struggling with popularity. It is no longer enough to produce a good on-the-field product in any professional sport, and a venue in which people are able to engage with one another and have fun is key to having fans show up to the events.

The San Francisco 49ers began the latest new stadium "arms race" when it unveiled plans to build the 68,500-seat area and move away from the old Candlestick Park, which was a classic example of a concrete bowl that housed both the 49ers and the San Francisco Giants. The new Levi's Stadium includes features of wireless internet, mobile networking capacity, and a huge video board above the endzone seats.

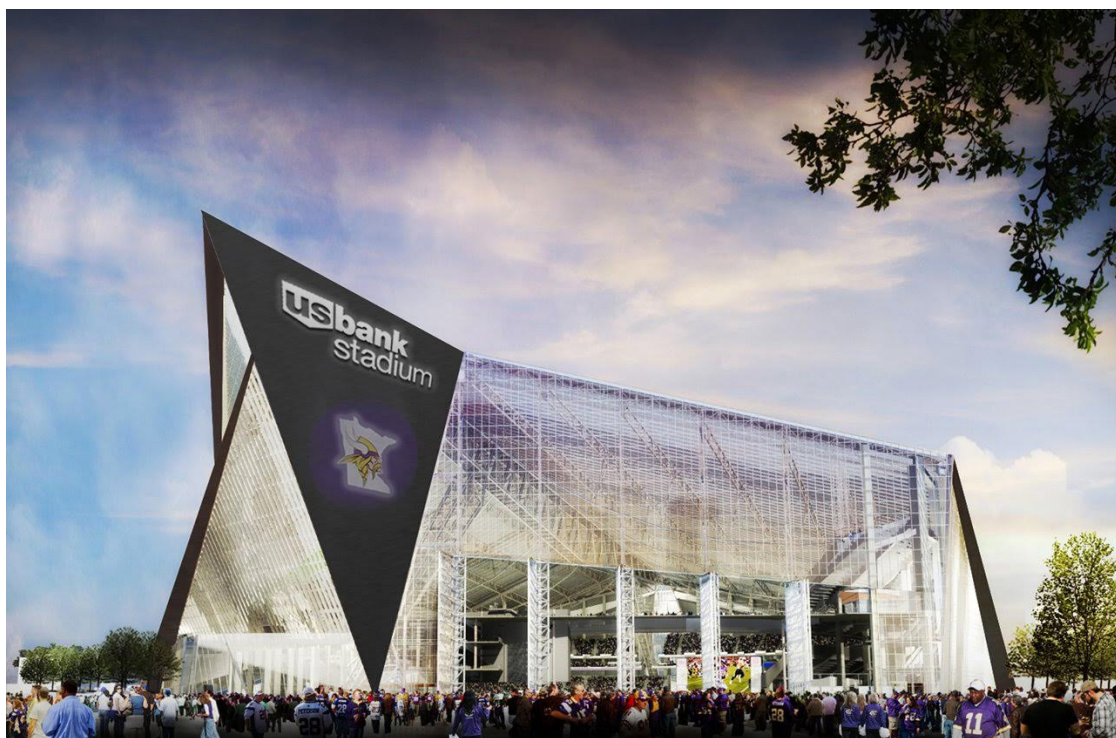
The Vikings then responded with a new, cutting-edge stadium of their own after thirty-one years in the cookie-cutter Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, which also housed the Minnesota Twins until they left in 2009 for their new ballpark. The Vikings upped the ante with the construction of US Bank Field. It not only is designed to provide a wonderful viewing experience but has a sleek glass exterior design by HKS, which was the lead design architect for both Lucas Oil Stadium and AT&T Stadium. Fan experience features include a Hall of Fame, 7,500 club seats, 120 different level suites, and even a "party plaza" outside of the endzone. The indoor-outdoor feel that the stadium has is unique, and that uniqueness is what all of the NFL teams are looking for in their new stadiums. The stadium's interior is technology-driven. It allows videoboard views from every seat and even a technology lounge on the club level.

The Atlanta Falcons have been looking for a long time to move out of the Georgia Dome, which was built in 1992 and is substandard in comparison to the amenities of many other NFL stadiums. They have finally begun construction on a new retractable dome stadium with lead design done by HOK. The stadium features a unique, jagged design. It also follows the now-common metal and glass exterior design. It is situated in downtown Atlanta and is also one of the most sustainably-designed stadiums in the world.

Last year, three teams—the San Diego Chargers, the Oakland Raiders, and the St. Louis Rams—all wanted to move to the Los Angeles. Obviously only one, or maybe if the proposal to the NFL owners' committee was good enough, two teams could move to Los Angeles.

As a result, the Raiders and Chargers partnered to create a proposal to the NFL committee with NFL stadium newcomer Manica Architecture as the lead design architect and HNTB as the architect of record. The stadium design includes an electric lightning bolt for Charger's games and a flame for the Raiders games. It had a smooth, flowing metal and glass exterior and a videoboard built into the stadium's oculus roof. However, it lost out to the other proposal that was put forth by the Rams, which was marketed as the "NFL Disney World" by the owners' committee, who chose the stadium the Rams' proposed with NFL stadium veteran HKS at the helm. The complex earns its nickname with its 300-room hotel, many parks, and expansive retail space. The design includes a sweeping roof that comes to meet the ground at a corner entrance plaza.

After losing on the move to Los



**INNOVATION:** The Vikings up the ante with the construction of US Bank Field

Angeles, both the Raiders and the Chargers decided to go elsewhere with their hopes for a new stadium. They both continued to work with Manica for the design of their new stadiums. The Raiders have begun to design a stadium situated across the road from the famous Las Vegas strip. They are hopeful that the NFL owners' committee will approve the move to Las Vegas, which is the first of many challenges that the project will undergo before being built. However, they are hopeful because the location will provide the necessary attraction to justify the move to both the franchise and the league. The stadium itself has a similar design to that of the Los Angeles proposal with one notable change: a roof is added, and the stadium is enclosed to ensure a comfortable atmosphere in the middle of the desert. The overall look of the building and the features are retained though the addition of the roof.

The Chargers turned to their current home city of San Diego for a new stadium. Their stadium design is completely different from that of the proposal for the Los Angeles relocation. Their new stadium incorporates the

much-needed new convention center in San Diego, and therefore adds the novelty and attraction needed. The stadium does not have the same flow as that of the other stadiums built. However, one of the coolest features in the design of the stadium is the rooftop plaza on top of the convention center that can be accessed from the upper concourse of the stadium. It allows a wonderful view of both the bay and of nearby Petco Park. The project would be mostly publicly-funded, and the project cannot progress past the planning stages until it comes to referendum on election day.

An NFL team must no longer only put a winning team on the field but also make the game experience worthwhile for attendees that might not necessarily care about the outcome of the game. The more unique the stadium is in its location, amenities, and appearance, the more appealing it will be to potential fans of the team. The days of multi-purpose concrete bowl stadiums are over, and fans have ushered in a new area of sleek metal and glass, amenity-driven facilities.

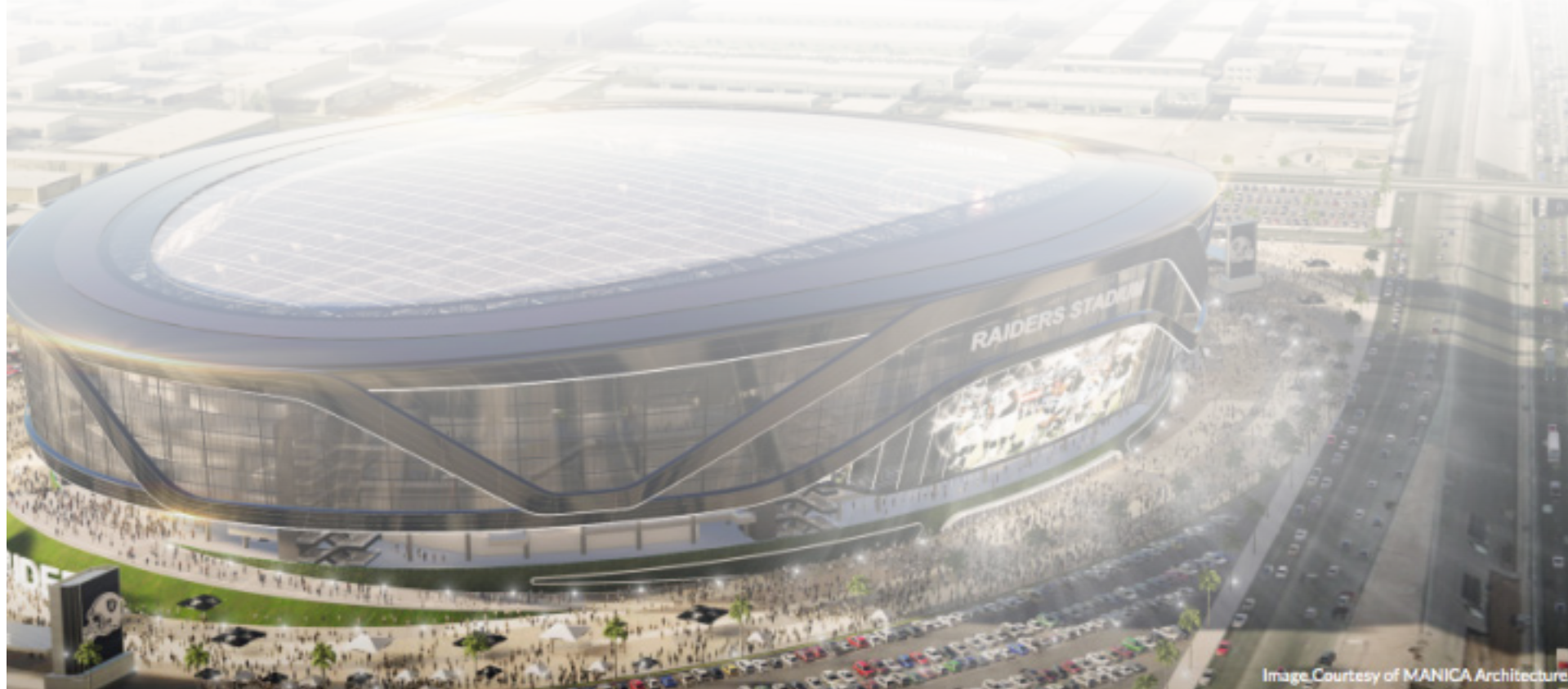


Image Courtesy of MANICA Architecture

# Freshmen Stuck in the Big Red Ditch

By Aden Barton, Zach Brown, Matt Kaplan  
Staff Pueris

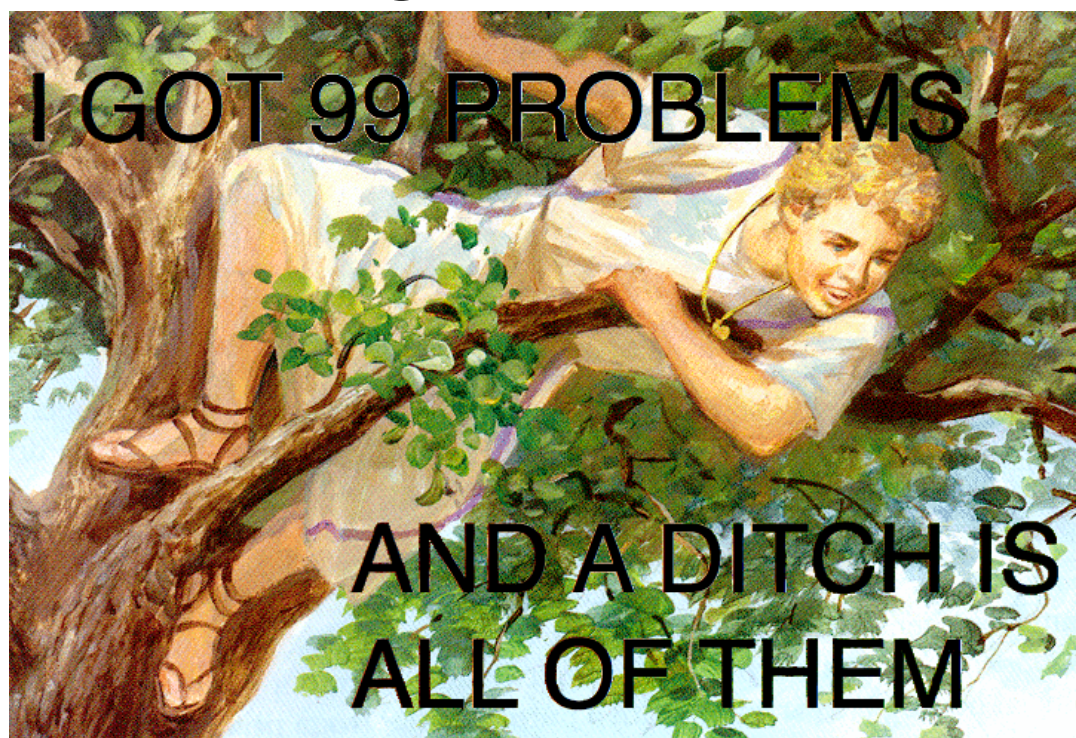
Let's get right to it. The most momentous event in the freshmen class thus far has been homecoming. It was a blast! Most people asked their dates throughout the series of MBA football games. Some people asked as early as mid February, *i.e.*, **Samuel Kirkpatrick**. Woah guys, make sure you give them half a year to get ready. It became apparent that while everyone said on Instagram that they were hyped for hoco, most people were more nervous than your feed would suggest. Planning also became nerve-racking for a lot of freshmen. We resorted to joining groups with our peers, even though they were only for pictures, and utterly pointless. It's all good though, because everyone was excited about the buzz around the dinner at MBA. Nobody missed going out to eat somewhere.

The dance itself was surprisingly not awkward for most freshmen, though many ended up on the bottom of a rave pile during "Every Time We Touch." The afterparty was met with some disappointment. We were limited to the harsh outdoors, with a single crowded

tent containing a few heaters. Having to walk across the tundra to get to food, the afterparty did not feel heated. That's not to say nothing was heated and everyone was disappointed. Just ask **Clayton Malone**. Everyone leaves homecoming overall pretty happy, even if only because it's over.

Speaking of over, the football season for the freshmen is over, yielding general success for the team. No joke there, good job guys. Star running back **Ike Cravens** must just still be spiking. It has been harder without a phone, though, becoming expensive to spike when **Zach Brown** charges him to use his phone. Hey, you gotta find someone to ask to go to another concert, so it's worth it.

Not to be confused with varsity football, which isn't over, even if **Tripper Capps** wishes it were. The varsity team wasn't the only thing that took an L at the Ensworth game. Speaking of L's, an online Madden Connected Franchise has sparked



ECCE!: In Ecce Romani!, a Roman family is stranded in a ditch for several chapters on their way to Rome.

some popularity amongst a certain group in our grade. Everyone takes some W's and L's, but the biggest L was the one **Clayton Malone** took in the group chat, which had nothing to do with playing any Madden game.

The transition from a microbe to high schooler has been tricky for some. **William Sullivan** has had a hard time transitioning from geog-

raphy to Ancient Medieval, as Mr. Bernatavitz steals his "hard earned" tallies he takes from other classmates' outlines.

Overall, it truly is fair to say that the freshmen class has had a good start to high school. Everyone is very excited about taking exams and finishing out the second quarter with another fun theme.

## Sophomores Slowly Slink As They Get Older

By Sam Dugan and Jackson Lyell  
Staff Sophomores

This fall, many of our sophomores were a part of the MBA JV football team. It was a historic season, and all the successes can be credited to head coach, Todd Moran. Moran, an offensive mastermind, helped the team reach offensive heights unlike people have ever seen for a JV team. He has even been called "The Gambler" or "The Mad Hatter" for his dicey play calling. Offensive leaders included **Brenden Harris**, **Cole Turner**, **Hunter Burch**, **Ruff Maddux**, and **Wes Hall**. On the other side of the ball, Coach Moran also served as the Defensive Coordinator. His unique schemes with calls such as "Base Even" propelled the team to defensive accomplishments almost as impressive as the offense. Perhaps if **Cooper Maddox** could catch an interception, they would surpass the offense as the driving force of the team. **Mitarius "Young Bull" Boyd**, defensive captain, displayed leadership to drive the defense to remain poised through all situations. Other defensive stars included **Ethan Way**, **Cal Bryan**, **Wes "Ironman" Hall**, **William Wheeler**, and **Chuckwu Offodile**.

The JV football team finished with a 5-0 record, and set various records along the way. With the phrase "BOGA" in mind, the team was able

to make their mark in the history of JV football and will never be forgotten. Thank you to Coach Moran for his leadership and knowledge.

As the sophomores suffer to continue in the second quarter, **Bennett Blackwell** and his tightrope club's whereabouts are still unknown. **Charlie "Stallion" Buffkin** prepares to buckle down for December exams. **Zach "Drawgz" Nelson** is still unwilling to DJ for a sophomore mixer unless paid a minimum of \$400. News flash: that's way too much, man. **John "Youtube" Dinkins** continues to use his editing skills to highlight the amazing DJ Drawgz youtube channel. **William "Ole Miss" Davis** continues to take an unlimited amount of L's. **Joe Owens** got his driver's license. We finally get to see him flash around his beautiful keys. Every. Single. Day. He must be 16. **Gibby Gibson** retired his tennis career in pursuit of his swimming career. Congrats, Gibby! Sam Funk's whereabouts are still unknown. **Jackson Hannah**, **Nick "Sticky Hands" German**, and **Braden Myers** continue to show their athletic dominance on Friday nights. Wait, who? What? When? Wait, where is **Garrett Murphy**'s shirt? Also, has anyone seen **Zachary Jackson**'s brother recently? Sophomores enter the Finsta World. Tripod seems to be making a name for himself, while **Carlito** and **Beedje**



THEY IS, THEY IS, THEY IS: Jackson Lyell chilling with Editor-in-Chief Peter Taylor and acclaimed novelist Tobias Wolff while on a Wilson Grant this summer.

are just simply enjoying the Free Life of Finsta. **Jack Rankin**'s whereabouts are still unknown today after election night! He took way too many L's. Also, apparently there is a new trend going around Nashville in the form of a hashtag called #andweback. No one knows who caused it, or when it will presumably come to an end. But for real, thank the Lord that we are all back! It makes the news team and I

very happy to see that we are finally back. Just kidding... no one cares.

As I said before, DJ Drawgz needs to make an appearance at a sophomore mixer. As the class is unable to pay him the \$400, we classmates need to encourage the internationally known DJ to show up. As the sophomores buckle down for midterm exams, there will undoubtedly be more updates to come. Keep your eyes open.

# Juniors Hate Junior Year

By Thomas Carr and Jack Crawford  
Staff Cubbie and Staff Shrimp

The Junior Class has had quite the second quarter so far. It's been a marathon, but the guys have recently come out of their shells to shine as the school's brightest class. The junior class have been very kind to one another lately, constantly lending a "helping hand" to those in need.

Speaking of those in need, **Robert Cain** could desperately use a win in Fantasy Football, a game with all 32 teams.

It all begins in the female realm, with classmates going after girls from all over Nashville. **William Kinard** has been dominating the Honey Bear pack, especially with his newly acquired experiment (if you want details, ask **Cal Bryan**). **Jackson McFadden** has made a lasting impression on the Ensworth girls, recently turning his homecoming date into an actual date. Finally, we are sad to hear that **Alexander Roberts** is officially leaving the Father Ryan clique after recently parting with his lady friend for her unruly conduct during homecoming, a night where special memories and life-changing decisions are made.

More news came about when a little

Blue Birdie mentioned that there was a huge shindig going down before Halloween. Of course, the MBA gentlemen carried themselves with pride and integrity as only the stuffed animals ended up along the sides of the long, winding driveway. **Blake Robison** and **Cal Bryan** are currently professional taxidermists and do not charge much for a stuffed wolf. Don't worry—**Cal Bryan** sorted everything out with his neighbor (A.K.A. class stud **Palmer Thombs'** Dominican Republic trip crush). Sure, it was not the fourth of July, but partners in crime **Cal Bryan** and **Blake Robison** were not going to let anyone know that, as they took it upon themselves to light up the sky in celebration of the one and only Sir Donald Trump.

In terms of MBA athletics, there is only one name that comes to mind: **Jack Crawford**. The Rajon Rondo of the MBA basketball team has taken a leave of absence to deal with more important things (girlfriend, churchball, girlfriend, and Minnesota Vikings D). We hope that everyone will encourage Jack and help him get through these tough academic courses. Speaking of academics, **Jackson Abbey** has had some character building experiences with THE Dr. Gabriel Carro. His

drive in the realm of academics has surprisingly not proven consistent in this "easy A" class of AP Physics I. Please pray for **Jackson**, as he just received a rough test grade. Please ask him if you wish to know about it. Another prominent name in the academic talk on the hill is **Joe Spear**. His love for the MBA workload, four-page response to the prompt on the application, and multiple meetings with Mr. Gioia at his request won him the honor of representing the gentlemen of MBA at Eton College in England. His absence during the 3rd quarter will very greatly affect the junior class.



HMM...: Cal Bryan is pictured here with what appears to be a raccoon. The Bell Ringer is unable to comment on the nature or the purpose of this photo.

## 'Member How Senior Year Was "Easy"?

By Brett Starr  
Jaylon King's Worst Nightmare

With most college apps already submitted, more and more seniors are embracing the senior slide each day. As the first semester comes to an end, winter exams mark the final time many seniors will apply themselves whatsoever at MBA. Nevertheless, while effort may be withering in the classroom, the senior class has not taken their feet off the pedals when it comes to attending EDM concerts.

Although most would probably assume that the MBA seniors aren't obsessed with electronic dance music, it seems that a wave of interest has hit the class of 2017. It started for many at the notorious Life in Color, but from there it exploded. Attendance was through the roof at Pretty Lights, Marshmellow on a school night in Antioch, and Chainsmokers. Each concert replaced the one before it as "the best night of my life" in the words of **Aubrey Greene**. Fortunately, after a few weeks away from EDM, a fair amount of those who went to these concerts admitted that the music wasn't very good, but they still had a great time with their friends. EDM fanatics **Nick "Electric Nick" Ray** and **Bo Osgood**, who have truly spearheaded the movement, seem to be the only ones who actually enjoy the sounds of pots and pans banging together.

As a whole, the senior class had a successful final Homecoming, though we had a few seniors boycott the dance this year. **Tanner Noonan** and **Jack Benson** were too cool for Homecoming. They alleg-

edly stated, "the deer stand is my date." **Ty Chandler** and **Micah Battle** decided to carve pumpkins with their "girlfriends" instead of taking them to the dance. Homecoming night can't be mentioned without recognizing **Cal Rieke's** "Birmingham Takeover." Additionally, many sources reported that **Ben Gauldin** had a loco night. Nice, bro. Overall, most people would say they had a fun night, but **Matthew Dobson** by far had the best night of all. Property damage can be quantified, but a Homecoming with your friends is priceless. **George Harwell**, you should really help out with a new ping pong table.

Early college applications are in, and the waiting game has begun. Some seniors chose to apply to a few schools, but some let their ambition get the best of them. **Aubrey Greene** has seemed to re-define the "college application game," as the Cornell hopeful will be spending a year's worth of tuition on application fees alone. Moreover, college admissions and college in general are still the topic of most daily conversations among seniors. There's never a dull moment in the senior room, where college is the only allowed topic of discussion. Whether it's debating Lake Forest as a practical alternative to Wake Forest or **Andrew Kaplan** telling you all about Georgetown, talking about college has been endlessly fun and unnerving.

The worst part about going to college is the departure from your best friends. Fortunately, most of the seniors won't have to deal with those feelings of sadness that come with moving away from the familiar. After *The Bell Ringer* Statistics Department made some calculations,

it was concluded that if everyone got accepted at his top school, over 50% of the class would be attending SMU next year. **Jack Hayles** is extremely excited by that number, although he wishes it would be just Memphis bros.

Although the Animal House really showed out for BA and Ensworth, the consistency hasn't been there. One might attribute this inconsistency to a lack of leadership, but that's simply insane. Everybody knows that **AHUD** has solidified himself as the best leader that student section has ever seen, so the problem must lie somewhere else.

On a side note, let's take a moment to recognize **Nick Sartain**. Not only is he the sweetest man ever, but he also rides a motorcycle. Nick took it upon himself to replace **Matt Hopp** as the honorary senior that rides a dirt bike to school. He continually impresses many people, especially one girl in particular, with his bravery on that crotch rocket. She really wants to ride the motor bike.

Lastly, there is a very serious investigation going on among the seniors right now. It has come to everyone's attention that an unknown hombre pooped on the



TWO PUMPKINS: Nothing beats Halloween festivities with your significant other, as Team 118 running back Ty Chandler shows us here.

floor at a gathering on November 5, but no one can identify the culprit! The suspect was last seen wearing a camo jacket when he fled the scene in a jeep with a "Hillary for Prison" sticker on the bumper. If you have any information regarding this defecation, please report it. We would like to catch the defecator before Trump's deportation services get him!

# New Year's Resolutions

*In 2017, we the students of MBA shall not...*

*Steal chicken biscuits*

*Talk on the quiet side of the library*

*Sit more than two to a table on the balcony*

*Cut underclassmen in the lunch line*

*Wipe-R-Down*

*Recycle*

*Do concessions*

*Do homework during class*

*Take notes on our phones*

*Study for finals*

*Lose our class rings*

*Return our books to the book sale*

*Fall asleep in assembly*

*Get arrested over Spring Break*

*Live in a fantasy world*

*Leave our shirts untucked*

*Park in someone else's spot*

*Miss lab*

*Start Twitter beef with Harpeth Hall girls*

*Talk to girls*

*Use Shmoop*

*Eat in the lunch line*

*Get sick on field day*

*Bring fire extinguishers into the student section*

*Put trash on our trays*

*Check out a book from the library*

*Skip pep rallies*

*Wear hats while walking between buildings*

*Offend anyone*

*Print The Bell Breaker*